

### CYCLOHEXENE COMPOUNDS

This invention relates to cyclohexene compounds, to processes for their preparation, to pharmaceutical compositions containing them and to their use in medicine, in particular  
5 their use in the treatment of conditions mediated by the action of PGE<sub>2</sub> at EP<sub>1</sub> receptors.

The EP<sub>1</sub> receptor is a 7-transmembrane receptor and its natural ligand is the prostaglandin PGE<sub>2</sub>. PGE<sub>2</sub> also has affinity for the other EP receptors (types EP<sub>2</sub>, EP<sub>3</sub> and EP<sub>4</sub>). The EP<sub>1</sub> receptor is associated with smooth muscle contraction, pain (in particular  
10 inflammatory, neuropathic and visceral), inflammation, allergic activities, renal regulation and gastric or enteric mucus secretion. We have now found a novel group of compounds which bind with high affinity to the EP<sub>1</sub> receptor.

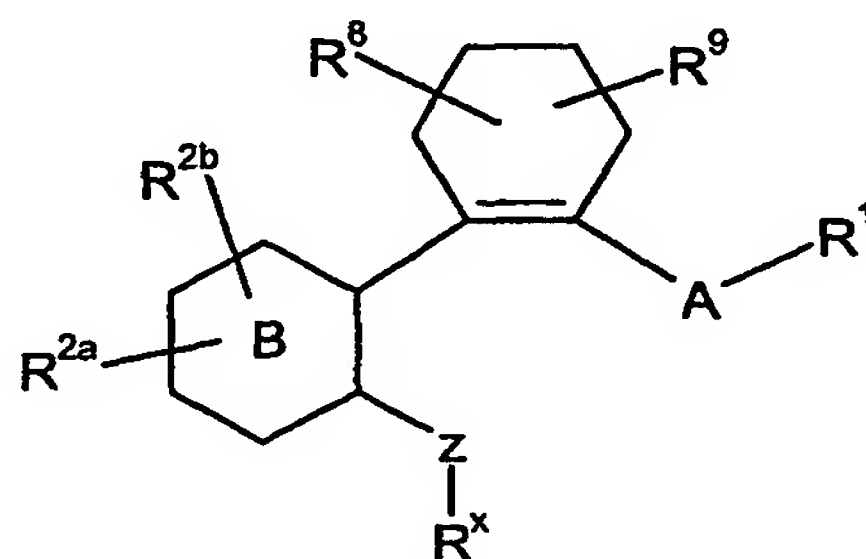
A number of review articles describe the characterization and therapeutic relevance of the  
15 prostanoid receptors as well as the most commonly used selective agonists and antagonists: *Eicosanoids; From Biotechnology to Therapeutic Applications*, Folco, Samuelsson, Macclouf, and Velo eds, Plenum Press, New York, 1996, chap. 14, 137-154 and *Journal of Lipid Mediators and Cell Signalling*, 1996, 14, 83-87 and *Prostanoid Receptors, Structure, Properties and Function*, S Narumiya et al, *Physiological Reviews* 1999, 79(4), 1193-126. An  
20 article from *The British Journal of Pharmacology*, 1994, 112, 735-740 suggests that Prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub> (PGE<sub>2</sub>) exerts allodynia through the EP<sub>1</sub> receptor subtype and hyperalgesia through EP<sub>2</sub> and EP<sub>3</sub> receptors in the mouse spinal cord. Furthermore an article from *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*, 2001, 107 (3), 325 shows that in the EP<sub>1</sub> knock-out mouse pain-sensitivity responses are reduced by approximately 50%. Two papers from *Anesthesia and Analgesia* have shown that (2001, 93, 1012-7) an EP<sub>1</sub> receptor antagonist (ONO-8711)  
25 reduces hyperalgesia and allodynia in a rat model of chronic constriction injury, and that (2001, 92, 233-238) the same antagonist inhibits mechanical hyperalgesia in a rodent model of post-operative pain. S. Sarkar et al in *Gastroenterology*, 2003, 124(1), 18-25 demonstrate the efficacy of EP<sub>1</sub> receptor antagonists in the treatment of visceral pain in a human model of  
30 hypersensitivity. Thus, selective prostaglandin ligands, agonists or antagonists, depending on which prostaglandin E receptor subtype is being considered, have anti-inflammatory, antipyretic and analgesic properties similar to a conventional non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, and in addition, inhibit hormone-induced uterine contractions and have anti-cancer effects. These compounds have a diminished ability to induce some of the mechanism-based  
35 side effects of NSAIDs which are indiscriminate cyclooxygenase inhibitors. In particular, the compounds have a reduced potential for gastrointestinal toxicity, a reduced potential for renal side effects, a reduced effect on bleeding times and a lessened ability to induce asthma attacks in aspirin-sensitive asthmatic subjects. Moreover, by sparing potentially beneficial prostaglandin pathways, these agents may have enhanced efficacy over NSAIDs and/or  
40 COX-2 inhibitors.

In The American Physiological Society (1994, 267, R289-R-294), studies suggest that PGE<sub>2</sub>-induced hyperthermia in the rat is mediated predominantly through the EP<sub>1</sub> receptor.

WO 96/06822 (March 7, 1996), WO 96/11902 (April 25, 1996), EP 752421-A1 (January 08, 1997), WO 01/19814 (22 March 2001), WO 03/084917 (16 October 2003), WO 03/101959 (11 December 2003) and WO 2004/039753 (13 May 2004) disclose compounds as being useful in the treatment of prostaglandin mediated diseases.

It is now suggested that a novel group of cyclohexene derivatives surprisingly are selective for the EP<sub>1</sub> receptor over the EP<sub>3</sub> receptor, and are therefore indicated to be useful in treating conditions mediated by the action of PGE<sub>2</sub> at EP<sub>1</sub> receptors. Such conditions include pain, or inflammatory, immunological, bone, neurodegenerative or renal disorders.

Accordingly the present invention provides cyclohexene compounds of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

A represents an optionally substituted aryl, or an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered heterocyclyl ring, or an optionally substituted bicyclic heterocyclyl group;

B represents a phenyl or pyridyl ring;

Z represents O, S, SO, or SO<sub>2</sub>;

R<sup>1</sup> represents CO<sub>2</sub>H, CN, CONR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, CH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H, optionally substituted SO<sub>2</sub>alkyl, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, NR<sup>5</sup>CONR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, COalkyl, 2H-tetrazol-5-yl-methyl, optionally substituted bicyclic heterocycle or optionally substituted heterocyclyl;

R<sup>2a</sup> and R<sup>2b</sup> each independently represents hydrogen, halo, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkoxy, CN, SO<sub>2</sub>alkyl, SR<sup>5</sup>, NO<sub>2</sub>, optionally substituted aryl, CONR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup> or optionally substituted heteroaryl;

R<sup>x</sup> represents optionally substituted alkyl wherein 1 or 2 of the non-terminal carbon atoms are optionally substituted by a group independently selected from NR<sup>4</sup>, O and SO<sub>n</sub>, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2, optionally substituted alkenyl or optionally substituted alkynyl; or R<sup>x</sup> represents optionally substituted CQ<sup>a</sup>Q<sup>b</sup>heterocyclyl, optionally substituted CQ<sup>a</sup>Q<sup>b</sup>-bicyclic heterocyclyl or optionally substituted CQ<sup>a</sup>Q<sup>b</sup>-aryl;

R<sup>4</sup> represents hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl;

R<sup>5</sup> represents hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl;

$R^6$  represents hydrogen or optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted  $SO_2$ aryl, optionally substituted  $SO_2$ alkyl, optionally substituted  $SO_2$ heteroaryl, CN, optionally substituted  $CQ^aQ^b$ aryl, optionally substituted  $CQ^aQ^b$ heteroaryl or  $COR^7$ ;

5  $R^7$  represents hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl or optionally substituted aryl;

$R^8$  and  $R^9$  each independently represents hydrogen, chloro, fluoro,  $CF_3$ ,  $C_{1-3}$ alkoxy or  $C_{1-3}$ alkyl;

$Q^a$  and  $Q^b$  each independently selected from hydrogen and  $CH_3$ ; and

10 when A is a 6-membered ring the  $R^1$  substituent and cyclohexene ring are attached to carbon atoms 1,2-, 1,3- or 1,4- relative to each other, and when A is a five-membered ring or bicyclic heterocyclyl group the  $R^1$  substituent and cyclohexene ring are attached to substitutable carbon atoms 1,2- or 1,3- relative to each other, and derivatives thereof.

15

Suitably A includes optionally substituted pyridyl.

Optional substituents for A include up to four substituents, preferably 0 or 1 substituent, independently selected from for example halogen,  $NR^5R^6$ ,  $NR^5COC_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $NR^5SO_2C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $OR^5$ , optionally substituted  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, wherein  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  are as defined above.

20

In one aspect B is phenyl.

Preferably Z is O.

25

Suitably  $R^1$  includes  $CO_2H$

Particular examples of  $R^{2a}$  and  $R^{2b}$  include hydrogen, halo, and optionally substituted  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, e.g.  $CF_3$ . Preferably  $R^{2a}$  and  $R^{2b}$  are independently selected from hydrogen, Cl, Br and  $CF_3$ .

30

Preferably  $R^{2a}$  is hydrogen. Preferably  $R^{2b}$  is positioned 1,4-relative to the Z substituent and 1,3 -relative to the cyclohexene ring.

35 Suitably  $R^4$  includes hydrogen or  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl.

Suitably  $R^5$  includes hydrogen or  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl.

Suitably  $R^6$  includes hydrogen or  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl.

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Suitably  $R^7$  includes hydrogen or  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl.

Suitably  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  are each hydrogen.

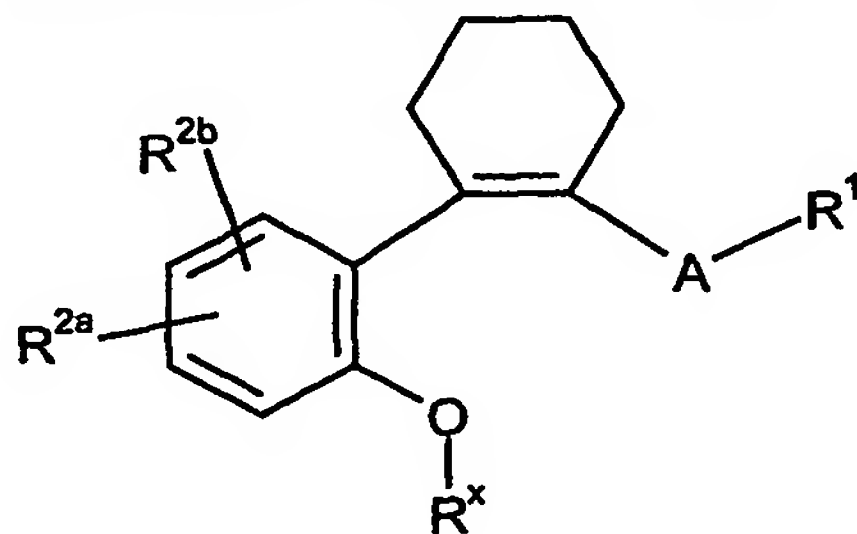
Suitably  $R^x$  when an optionally substituted alkyl group includes  $C_{1-8}$ alkyl.

Suitably  $R^x$  include  $CH_2$ phenyl optionally substituted by one, two or three, preferably one or two substituents, selected from halogen, e.g. Cl and F, and  $CF_3$ .

An example of  $Q^a$  is hydrogen.

An example of  $Q^b$  is hydrogen.

A certain group of compounds of formula (I) are compounds of formula (Ia):



(Ia)

wherein:

A is a pyridyl ring;

$R^1$  is  $CO_2H$ ;

$R^{2a}$  and  $R^{2b}$  are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, optionally and substituted  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl e.g.  $CF_3$ .

$R^x$  is optionally substituted  $CH_2$ -phenyl; or derivatives thereof

Preferably  $R^{2a}$  is hydrogen.

Suitably  $R^{2b}$  represents hydrogen, halogen e.g. Cl or F, or  $CF_3$ .

Preferably  $R^{2b}$  is positioned 1,4- relative to the  $OR^x$  substituent and 1,3- relative to the cyclohexene ring.

Preferably  $R^x$  is  $CH_2$ -phenyl optionally substituted by one, two or three substituents selected from halogen e.g. Cl or F, and  $CF_3$ .

Compounds of formula (I) include:

6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;

- 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[[2-(2,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid; and
- 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[[2-(2,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;
- 5 6-[2-[2-[[2-(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;
- 6-[2-[2-[[2-(2,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;
- 10 6-[2-(5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-[[2-(2,4,5-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;
- 6-[2-[2-[[2-(4-chloro-2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;
- 6-[2-(5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-[[2-(2,4,6-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;
- 15 6-[2-[2-[[2-(2-chlorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;
- 6-[2-[2-[[2-(3,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;
- 6-[2-[2-[[2-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;
- 20 2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;
- 6-[2-[2-[[2-(4-chlorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;
- 6-[2-[2-[[2-(2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;
- 25 6-[2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;
- 5-[2-[2-[[2-(2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;
- 5-[2-[2-[[2-(2,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;
- 30 5-[2-(5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-[[2-(2,4,6-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;
- 5-[2-[2-[[2-(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;
- 35 5-[2-(5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-[[2-(2,3,4-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;
- 5-[2-(5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-[[2-(2,4,5-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;
- 5-[2-[2-[[2-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;
- 40 3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;
- 5-[2-[2-[[2-(4-chloro-2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;



- 5-{2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;  
 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2,4,5-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;  
 5 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;  
 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2,4,6-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;  
 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;  
 10 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(3,4,5-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;  
 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(3,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;  
 15 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(4-chloro-2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;  
 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(4-chlorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;  
 5-(2-[5-chloro-2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-3-pyridinecarboxylate  
 20 5-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;  
 5-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;  
 5-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;  
 25 5-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2,4,5-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;  
 5-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2,3,4-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;  
 30 5-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;  
 6-(2-[5-bromo-2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;  
 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;  
 35 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;  
 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(2,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;  
 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(3,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;  
 40 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(2,3,4-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;

- 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(2,4,5-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;  
6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(2,4,6-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;  
5 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid; and  
3-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;  
10 and derivatives thereof.

The compounds of the invention are selective for EP<sub>1</sub> over EP<sub>3</sub>. The compounds of the examples are at least 20 fold selective. Preferred compounds are at least 100 fold selective for EP<sub>1</sub> over EP<sub>3</sub>.

15

Derivatives of the compounds of formula (I) include pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives.

The invention is described using the following definitions unless otherwise indicated.

- 20 The term "pharmaceutically acceptable derivative" means any pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester, or solvate of salt or ester of the compounds of formula (I), or any other compound which upon administration to the recipient is capable of providing (directly or indirectly) a compound of formula (I).
- 25 It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the compounds of formula (I) may be modified to provide pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof at any of the functional groups in the compounds, and that the compounds of formula (I) may be derivatised at more than one position.
- 30 It will be appreciated that, for pharmaceutical use, the salts referred to above will be pharmaceutically acceptable salts, but other salts may find use, for example in the preparation of compounds of formula (I) and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

- Pharmaceutically acceptable salts include those described by Berge, Bighley and  
35 Monkhouse, *J. Pharm. Sci.*, 1977, 66, 1-19. The term "pharmaceutically acceptable salts" refers to salts prepared from pharmaceutically acceptable bases including inorganic bases and organic bases. Salts derived from inorganic bases include aluminum, ammonium, calcium, copper, ferric, ferrous, lithium, magnesium, manganic salts, manganous, potassium, sodium, zinc, and the like. A particular salt is the sodium salt. Salts derived from pharmaceutically  
40 acceptable organic bases include salts of primary, secondary, and tertiary amines; substituted amines including naturally occurring substituted amines; and cyclic amines. Particular pharmaceutically acceptable organic bases include arginine, betaine, caffeine, choline, N,N'-dibenzylethylenediamine, diethylamine, 2-diethylaminoethanol, 2-

dimethylaminoethanol, ethanolamine, ethylenediamine, N-ethyl-morpholine, N-ethylpiperidine, glucamine, glucosamine, histidine, hydrabamine, isopropylamine, lysine, methylglucamine, morpholine, piperazine, piperidine, procaine, purines, theobromine, triethylamine, trimethylamine, tripropyl amine, tromethamine, and the like. Salts may also be formed from  
5 basic ion exchange resins, for example polyamine resins. When the compound of the present invention is basic, salts may be prepared from pharmaceutically acceptable acids, including inorganic and organic acids. Such acids include acetic, benzenesulfonic, benzoic, camphorsulfonic, citric, ethanesulfonic, ethanedisulfonic, fumaric, gluconic, glutamic, hydrobromic, hydrochloric, isethionic, lactic, maleic, malic, mandelic, methanesulfonic, mucic,  
10 pamoic, pantothenic, phosphoric, propionic, succinic, sulfuric, tartaric, p-toluenesulfonic acid, and the like.

The compounds of formula (I) may be prepared in crystalline or non-crystalline form, and if crystalline, may be optionally hydrated or solvated. This invention includes in its scope  
15 stoichiometric hydrates as well as compounds containing variable amounts of water.

Suitable solvates include pharmaceutically acceptable solvates, such as hydrates.

20 Solvates include stoichiometric solvates and non-stoichiometric solvates.

The terms "halogen" or "halo" are used to represent fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine.

The term "alkyl" as a group or part of a group means a straight, branched or cyclic chain alkyl group or combinations thereof. Unless hereinbefore defined, examples of alkyl  
25 include C<sub>1-8</sub>alkyl, for example methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, iso-propyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, iso-butyl, t-butyl, pentyl, hexyl, 1,1-dimethylethyl, cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl or combinations thereof such as cyclohexylmethyl and cyclopentylmethyl.

The term "alkoxy" as a group or as part of a group means a straight, branched or cyclic chain alkoxy group. Unless hereinbefore defined "alkoxy" includes C<sub>1-8</sub>alkoxy, e.g.  
30 methoxy, ethoxy, n-propoxy, iso-propoxy, n-butoxy, sec-butoxy, iso-butoxy, t-butoxy, pentoxy, hexyloxy, cyclopentoxy or cyclohexyloxy. In one aspect "alkoxy" is C<sub>1-8</sub> alkoxy.

The term "alkenyl" means linear or branched structures and combinations thereof, of the  
35 indicated number of carbon atoms, having at least one carbon-to-carbon double bond, wherein hydrogen may be replaced by an additional carbon to carbon double bond. In one aspect "alkenyl" is C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl, for example ethenyl, propenyl, 1-methylethenyl, butenyl and the-like.

40 The term "alkynyl" means linear or branched structures and combinations thereof, of the indicated number of carbon atoms, having at least one carbon-to-carbon triple bond.. C<sub>2-8</sub>alkynyl, for example, includes ethynyl, propynyl, butynyl and the like.



The term "heterocyclyl" as a group or as part of a group means an aromatic or non-aromatic five or six membered ring which contains from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur and is unsubstituted or substituted by, for example, up to three substituents. Examples of 5- membered heterocyclyl groups include furyl, dioxalanyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, oxadiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, triazolyl, triazinyl, isothiazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiophenyl, pyrazolyl or tetrazolyl. Examples of 6-membered heterocyclyl groups are pyridyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl or tetrazinyl.

The term "aryl" as a group or part of a group means a 5- or 6- membered aromatic ring, for example phenyl, or a 7 to 12 membered bicyclic ring system where at least one of the rings is aromatic, for example naphthyl. An aryl group may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents, for example up to 4, 3 or 2 substituents. Preferably the aryl group is phenyl.

The term "heteroaryl" as a group or as part of a group means a monocyclic five or six membered aromatic ring, or a fused bicyclic aromatic ring system comprising two of such monocyclic five or six membered aromatic rings. These heteroaryl rings contain one or more heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur, where N-oxides, sulfur oxides and sulfur dioxides are permissible heteroatom substitutions. A heteroaryl group may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents, for example up to 3 or up to 2 substituents. Examples of "heteroaryl" used herein include furyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, isothiazolyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, benzofuryl, benzothienyl, indolyl, and indazolyl.

The term "bicyclic heterocyclyl" when used herein means a fused bicyclic aromatic or non-aromatic bicyclic heterocyclyl ring system comprising up to four, preferably one or two, heteroatoms each selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur. Each ring may have from 4 to 7, preferably 5 or 6, ring atoms. A bicyclic heteroaromatic ring system may include a carbocyclic ring. Examples of bicyclic heterocyclyl groups include quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, quinoxalinyl, quinazolinyl, pyridopyrazinyl, benzoxazolyl, benzothiophenyl, benzimidazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzoxadiazolyl, benzthiadiazolyl, indolyl, benztriazolyl or naphthyridinyl.

When the heteroatom nitrogen replaces a carbon atom in an alkyl group, or when nitrogen is present in a heteroaryl, heterocyclyl or bicyclic heterocyclyl group, the nitrogen atom will, where appropriate, be substituted by one or two substituents selected from hydrogen and C<sub>1-8</sub>alkyl, preferably hydrogen and C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, more preferably hydrogen.

Optional substituents for alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl groups unless hereinbefore defined include OH, CO<sub>2</sub>H, CO<sub>2</sub>C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, NHC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, NH<sub>2</sub>, (O), OC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, phenyl or halo e.g. Cl, Br or F. An alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group may be substituted by one or more optional substituents, for example up to 5, 4, 3, 2 or 1 optional substituents. Particular substituted alkyl groups include

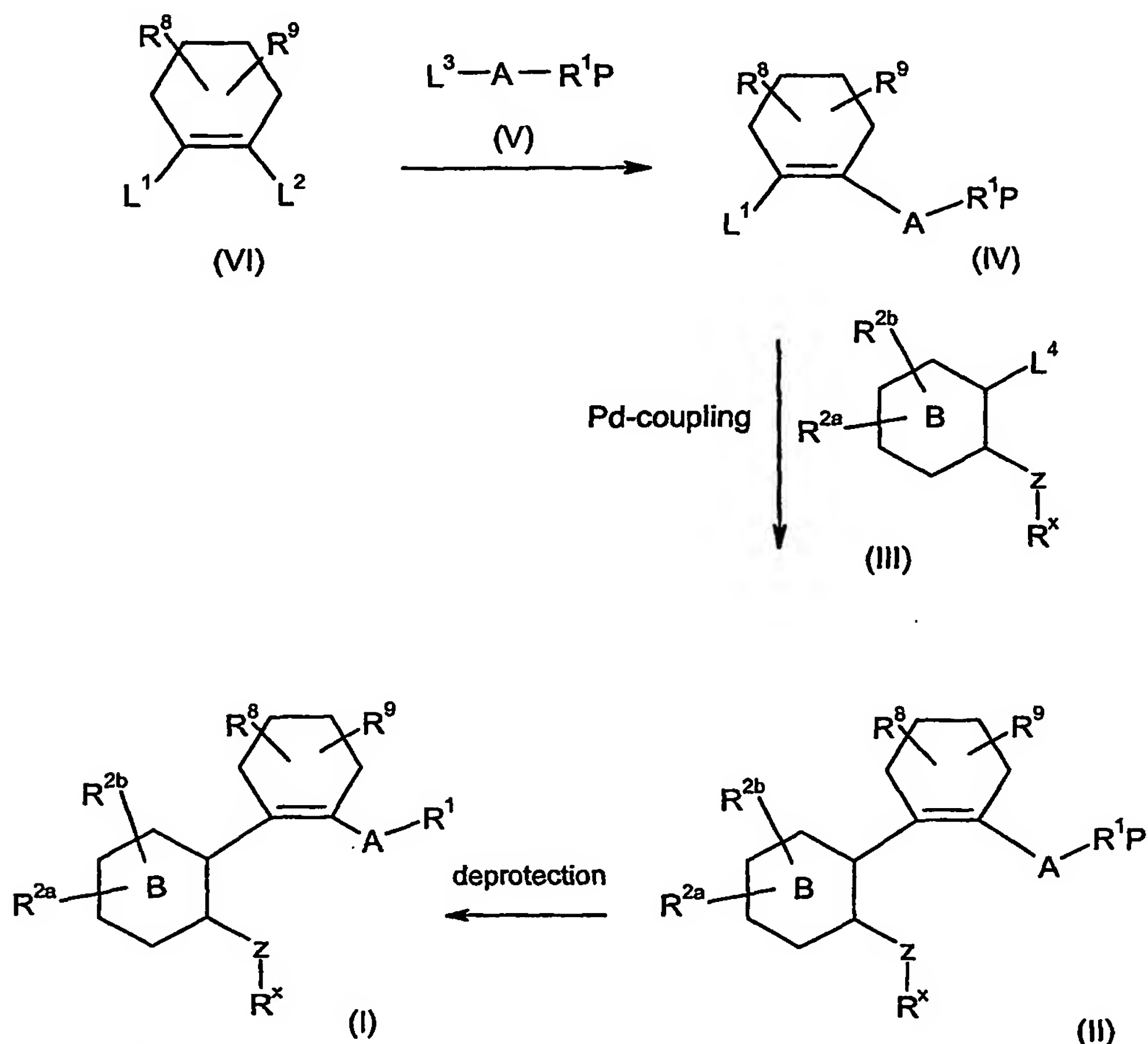
those substituted by one or more fluorine atoms, up to per-fluorination, e.g.  $\text{CH}_2\text{F}$ ,  $\text{CHF}_2$ ,  $\text{CF}_3$ ,  $\text{C}_2\text{F}_5$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_3$ , and  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_3$ .

Optional substituents for alkoxy groups unless hereinbefore defined include OH, and halo e.g. Cl, Br or F. An alkoxy group may be substituted by one or more optional substituents, for example up to 5, 4, 3, or 2 optional substituents.

Unless otherwise defined, optional substituents for aryl, heteroaryl or heterocyclyl moieties as a group or part of a group are selected from  $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkoxy and halogen.

Compounds of formula (I) can be prepared as set forth in the following schemes and in the examples. The following processes form another aspect of the present invention.

For example, compounds of formula (I) may be prepared by the general route below:



wherein  $\text{L}^1$  and  $\text{L}^2$  each represent a leaving group for example halo, e.g. bromo or chloro, or triflate;  $\text{L}^3$  and  $\text{L}^4$  each represent an activating group, for example boronic acid; P is an optional-protecting group; and A, B,  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^{2a}$ ,  $\text{R}^{2b}$ ,  $\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{R}^9$ , Z and  $\text{R}^x$  are as defined for compounds of formula (I).  $\text{L}^1$  can be converted to  $\text{L}^{1a}$ , and  $\text{L}^2$  can be converted to  $\text{L}^{2a}$

wherein  $L^{1a}$  and  $L^{2a}$  each represent an activating group for example a boronic acid, and in this situation  $L^3$  and  $L^4$  can each be halo or triflate.

When  $R^1$  is  $CO_2H$  examples of P include methyl, ethyl or benzyl esters.

5

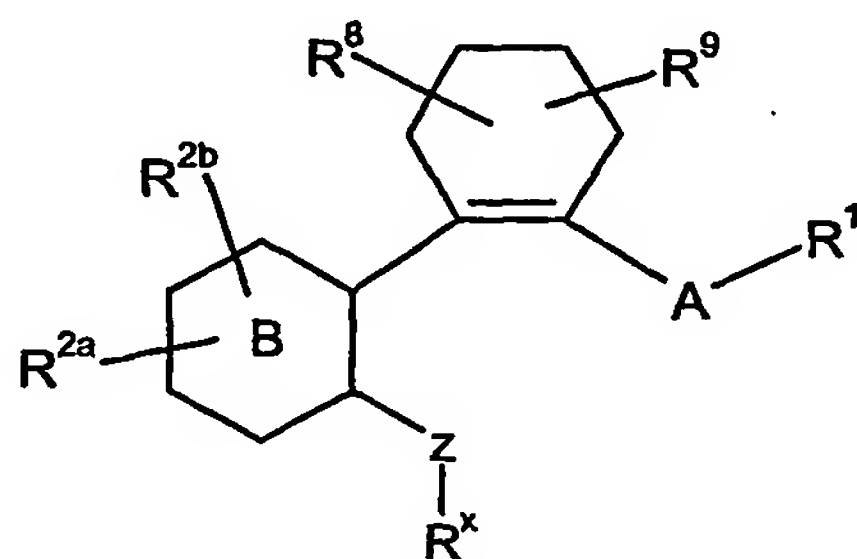
Suitable reaction conditions for the deprotection of a compound of formula (II) include heating in ethanolic sodium hydroxide solution.

10

Suitable reaction conditions for the reaction of a compound of formula (VI) with a boronic acid of formula (V,  $L^3$  is  $-B(OH)_2$ ), or a compound of formula (IV) with a boronic acid of formula (III,  $L^4$  is  $-B(OH)_2$ ) include heating with tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium (0) and an inorganic base, for example potassium carbonate, in a solvent, e.g. ethylene glycol dimethyl ether (DME), toluene and ethanol, preferably in a ratio of 1:1.

15

Accordingly the present invention also provides a process for the preparation of a cyclohexene compound of formula (I) or a derivative thereof:



(I)

wherein:

20

A represents an optionally substituted aryl, or an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered heterocyclyl ring, or an optionally substituted bicyclic heterocyclyl group;

B represents a phenyl or pyridyl ring;

Z represents O, S, SO, or  $SO_2$ ;

25

$R^1$  represents  $CO_2H$ , CN,  $CONR^5R^6$ ,  $CH_2CO_2H$ , optionally substituted  $SO_2$ alkyl,  $SO_2NR^5R^6$ ,  $NR^5CONR^5R^6$ , COalkyl, 2H-tetrazol-5-yl-methyl, optionally substituted bicyclic heterocycle or optionally substituted heterocyclyl;

$R^{2a}$  and  $R^{2b}$  each independently represents hydrogen, halo, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkoxy, CN,  $SO_2$ alkyl,  $SR^5$ ,  $NO_2$ , optionally substituted aryl,  $CONR^5R^6$  or optionally substituted heteroaryl;

30

$R^x$  represents optionally substituted alkyl wherein 1 or 2 of the non-terminal carbon atoms are optionally substituted by a group independently selected from  $NR^4$ , O and  $SO_n$ , wherein n is 0, 1 or 2, optionally substituted alkenyl or optionally substituted alkynyl; or  $R^x$  represents optionally substituted  $CQ^aQ^b$ heterocyclyl, optionally substituted  $CQ^aQ^b$ -bicyclic heterocyclyl or optionally substituted  $CQ^aQ^b$ -aryl;

35

$R^4$  represents hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl;

$R^5$  represents hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl;

$R^6$  represents hydrogen or optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted  $SO_2$ aryl, optionally substituted  $SO_2$ alkyl, optionally substituted  $SO_2$ heteroaryl, CN, optionally substituted  $CQ^aQ^b$ aryl, optionally substituted

5  $CQ^aQ^b$ heteroaryl or  $COR^7$ ;

$R^7$  represents hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl or optionally substituted aryl;

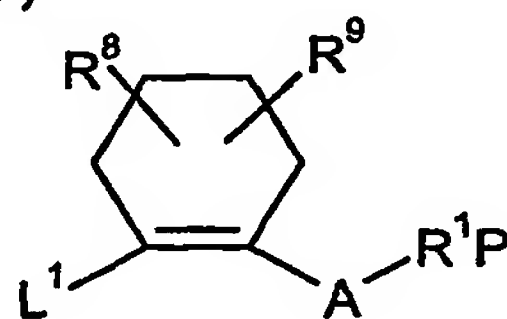
$R^8$  and  $R^9$  each independently represents hydrogen, chloro, fluoro,  $CF_3$ ,  $C_{1-3}$ alkoxy or  $C_{1-3}$ alkyl;

10  $Q^a$  and  $Q^b$  each independently selected from hydrogen and  $CH_3$ ; and

when A is a 6-membered ring the  $R^1$  substituent and cyclohexene ring are attached to carbon atoms 1,2-, 1,3- or 1,4- relative to each other, and when A is a five-membered ring or bicyclic heterocyclyl group the  $R^1$  substituent and cyclohexene ring are attached to substitutable carbon atoms 1,2- or 1,3- relative to each other,

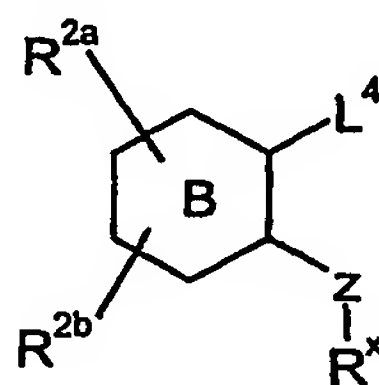
15 comprising:

reacting a compound of formula (IV):



(IV)

20 wherein  $R^8$ ,  $R^9$ , A, and  $R^1$  are as hereinbefore defined above for a compound of formula (I),  $L^1$  is a leaving group and P is an optional protecting group; with a compound of formula (III):



(III)

25 wherein  $R^{2a}$ ,  $R^{2b}$ , B, Z, and  $R^x$  are as hereinbefore defined above for a compound of formula (I) and  $L^4$  is an activating group;

and where required converting:

one group  $R^x$  to another group  $R^x$ ;

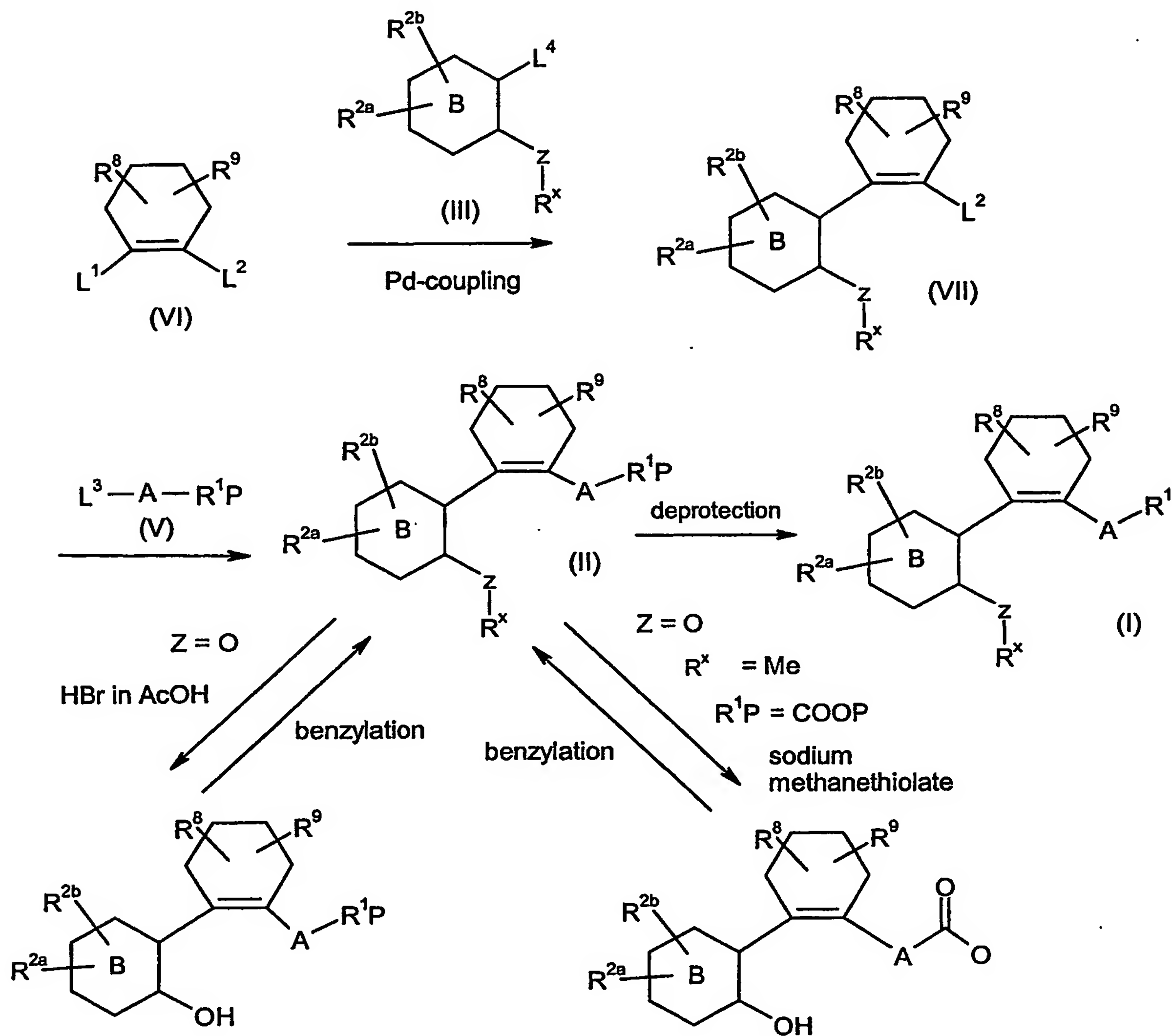
and where required carrying out the following optional steps in any order:

30 effecting deprotection; and/or

converting one group  $R^1$  to another group  $R^1$ ; and/or

forming a derivative of the compound of formula (I) so formed.

Alternatively compounds of formula (I) may be prepared according to the route described below:



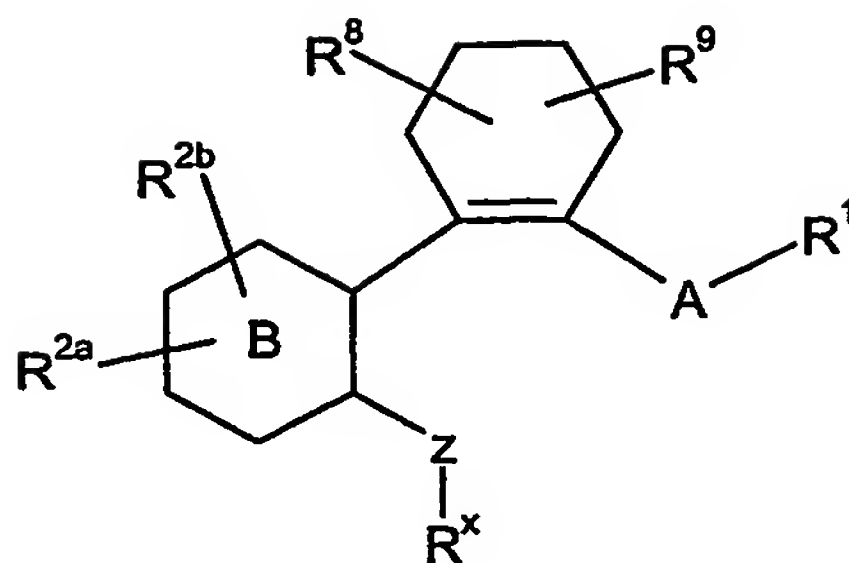
5

wherein  $L^1$ ,  $L^2$ ,  $L^3$ ,  $L^4$  and P are as defined above, and A, B,  $R^1$ ,  $R^{2a}$ ,  $R^{2b}$ ,  $R^8$ ,  $R^9$ , Z, and  $R^x$  are as defined for compounds of formula (I).  $L^1$  can be converted to  $L^{1a}$ , and  $L^2$  can be converted to  $L^{2a}$  wherein  $L^{1a}$  and  $L^{2a}$  each represent an activating group, for example a boronic acid, and in this situation  $L^3$  and  $L^4$  can be halo or triflate.

10

Accordingly the present invention also provides a process for the preparation of a cyclohexene compound of formula (I) or a derivative thereof:





(I)

wherein:

A represents an optionally substituted aryl, or an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered heterocyclyl ring, or an optionally substituted bicyclic heterocyclyl group;

5 B represents a phenyl or pyridyl ring;

Z represents O, S, SO, or SO<sub>2</sub>;

R<sup>1</sup> represents CO<sub>2</sub>H, CN, CONR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, CH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H, optionally substituted SO<sub>2</sub>alkyl, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, NR<sup>5</sup>CONR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, COalkyl, 2H-tetrazol-5-yl-methyl, optionally substituted bicyclic heterocycle or optionally substituted heterocyclyl;

10 R<sup>2a</sup> and R<sup>2b</sup> each independently represents hydrogen, halo, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkoxy, CN, SO<sub>2</sub>alkyl, SR<sup>5</sup>, NO<sub>2</sub>, optionally substituted aryl, CONR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup> or optionally substituted heteroaryl;

R<sup>x</sup> represents optionally substituted alkyl wherein 1 or 2 of the non-terminal carbon atoms are optionally substituted by a group independently selected from NR<sup>4</sup>, O and SO<sub>n</sub>,

15 wherein n is 0, 1 or 2, optionally substituted alkenyl or optionally substituted alkynyl; or R<sup>x</sup> represents optionally substituted CQ<sup>a</sup>Q<sup>b</sup>heterocyclyl, optionally substituted CQ<sup>a</sup>Q<sup>b</sup>-bicyclic heterocyclyl or optionally substituted CQ<sup>a</sup>Q<sup>b</sup>-aryl;

R<sup>4</sup> represents hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl;

R<sup>5</sup> represents hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl;

20 R<sup>6</sup> represents hydrogen or optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted SO<sub>2</sub>aryl, optionally substituted SO<sub>2</sub>alkyl, optionally substituted SO<sub>2</sub>heteroaryl, CN, optionally substituted CQ<sup>a</sup>Q<sup>b</sup>aryl, optionally substituted CQ<sup>a</sup>Q<sup>b</sup>heteroaryl or COR<sup>7</sup>;

25 R<sup>7</sup> represents hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl or optionally substituted aryl;

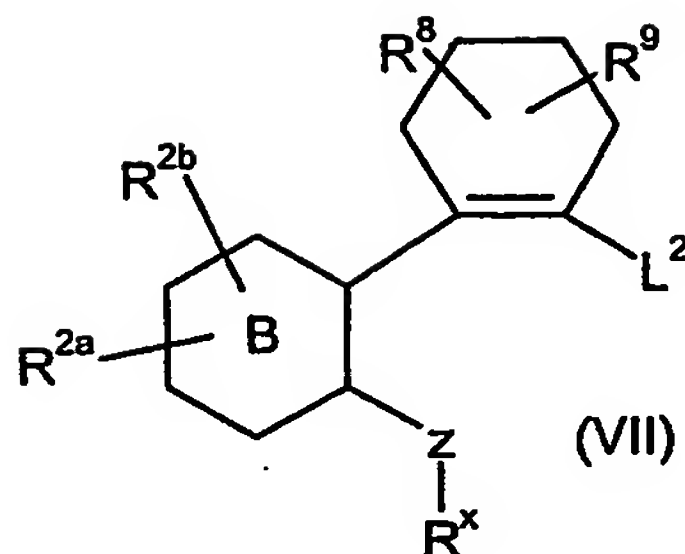
R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> each independently represents hydrogen, chloro, fluoro, CF<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy or C<sub>1-3</sub>alkyl;

Q<sup>a</sup> and Q<sup>b</sup> each independently selected from hydrogen and CH<sub>3</sub>; and

30 when A is a 6-membered ring the R<sup>1</sup> substituent and cyclohexene ring are attached to carbon atoms 1,2-, 1,3- or 1,4- relative to each other, and when A is a five-membered ring or bicyclic heterocyclyl group the R<sup>1</sup> substituent and cyclohexene ring are attached to substitutable carbon atoms 1,2- or 1,3- relative to each other,

comprising:

reacting a compound of formula (VII):



wherein  $R^{2a}$ ,  $R^{2b}$ ,  $R^8$ ,  $R^9$ , B, and  $R^x$  are as hereinbefore defined above for a compound of formula (I), and  $L^2$  is a leaving group;

5 with a compound of formula (V):



(V)

10 wherein  $R^1$ , and A are as hereinbefore defined above for a compound of formula (I);  $L^3$  is an activating group and P is an optional protecting group;  
and where required converting:

one group  $R^x$  to another group  $R^x$ ;

and where required carrying out the following optional steps in any order:  
effecting deprotection; and/or

15 converting one group  $R^1$  to another group  $R^1$ ; and/or  
forming a derivative of the compound of formula (I) so formed.

It will be appreciated that certain substituents in intermediates and compounds of formula (I) may be converted to other substituents by conventional methods known to those skilled  
20 in the art.

A group  $R^1$  may be converted to another group  $R^1$  by use of conventional organic transformations known to those skilled in the art. For example  $R^1 = CO_2H$  may be converted to an amide, e.g.  $CONHCQ^aQ^b$ aryl or  $CONHCQ^aQ^b$ heteroaryl wherein  $Q^a$  and  
25  $Q^b$  are selected from hydrogen and  $CH_3$ , by conventional methods for the preparation of amides as described in, for example, Richard Larock, *Comprehensive Organic Transformations*, 2nd edition, Wiley-VCH, ISBN 0-471-19031-4.

30 Cyclohexene derivatives of formula (VI), boronic acids of formula (III) and (V), and tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium (0) are commercially available, or readily prepared by methods known to those skilled in the art.

The preparation and reactions of boronic acids of formula (III) and formula (V) is reviewed in Suzuki *et al*, *Synth. Commun.*, 1981, 11, 513; Martin *et al*, *Acta. Chim. Scand.*, 1993,  
35 47, 221; and Miyaura *et al*, *Chem. Rev.*, 1995, 95, 2457. For example, 2-benzyloxy-5-

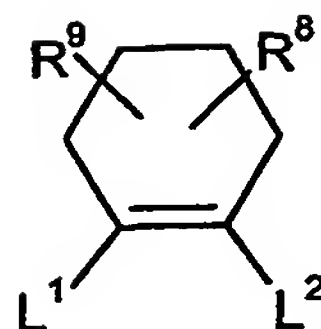
chlorophenylboronic acid may be prepared from 2-benzyloxy-5-chloro-iodobenzene. 2-Benzyloxy-5-chloro-iodobenzene may be prepared from 4-chloro-2-iodoanisole by demethylation followed by benzylation according to known methods.

5 Certain substituents in any of the reaction intermediates and compounds of formula (I) may be converted to other substituents by conventional methods known to those skilled in the art. Examples of substituents which may be converted include one group  $R^x$  to another group  $R^x$ ; and one substituent on a group A to another substituent on a group A. Examples of such transformations include the reduction of a nitro group to give an amino  
10 group; alkylation and amidation of amino groups; hydrolysis of esters, alkylation of hydroxy and amino groups; and amidation and esterification of carboxylic acids. Such transformations are well known to those skilled in the art and are described in for example, Richard Larock, *Comprehensive Organic Transformations*, 2nd edition, Wiley-VCH, ISBN 0-471-19031-4.

15 For example, when  $R^x$  is p-methoxybenzyl, cleavage of the ether to give the phenol or pyridinol is carried out using, for example, using acid e.g. HCl/dioxane, HBr/acetic acid or using sodium methanethiolate. When  $R^x$  is methyl, cleavage of the ether to give the phenol is carried out using, for example, sodium methanethiolate. Cleavage of the ether to  
20 give a pyridinol is carried out in the presence of, for example, trifluoroacetic acid. Conversion to another  $R^x$  group, for example, a substituted benzyl group, may be effected by reaction of the phenol or pyridinol with a suitable substituted benzyl bromide. The skilled person will appreciate that conversion of the protecting group P to another protecting group P may also occur under the reaction conditions used. When  $R^x$  is benzyl,  
25 cleavage of the ether to give the phenol or pyridinol may be carried out by hydrogenation according to known methods e.g.  $H_2$ -Pd/C or  $NH_4CO_2H$ -Pd/C. The resulting phenol or pyridinol can then be converted to another group  $R^x$  as described above.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that it may be necessary to protect certain  
30 reactive substituents during some of the above procedures. The skilled person will recognise when a protecting group is required. Standard protection and deprotection techniques, such as those described in Greene T.W. 'Protective groups in organic synthesis', New York, Wiley (1981), can be used. For example, carboxylic acid groups can be protected as esters. Deprotection of such groups is achieved using conventional  
35 procedures known in the art. It will be appreciated that protecting groups may be interconverted by conventional means.

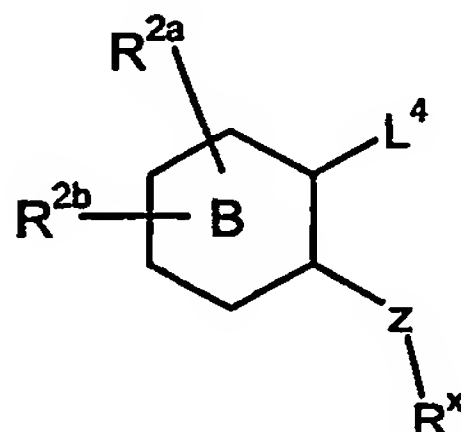
Cyclohexene intermediates of the formula (VI):



(VI)

wherein  $L^1$ ,  $L^2$  are as defined above, and  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  are as hereinbefore defined for compounds of formula (I) are commercially available or may be readily prepared according to known methods.

Compounds of the formula (III):



wherein  $L^4$  is as hereinbefore defined,  $R^{2a}$ ,  $R^{2b}$ ,  $Z$ ,  $B$  and  $R^x$  are as defined for compounds of formula (I) are commercially available, or may readily be prepared by methods known to those skilled in the art, for example from suitable commercially available pyridinols, anisoles or phenols using methods as described in the examples.

Compounds of the formula (V):



wherein  $L^3$  and  $P$  are as defined above and  $R^1$  and  $A$  are as hereinbefore defined for compounds of formula (I) are commercially available or may readily be prepared, for example, from suitable halobenzoic acid esters according to known methods, for example using methods as described in the examples.

It is to be understood that the present invention encompasses all isomers of formula (I) and their pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives, including all geometric, tautomeric and optical forms, and mixtures thereof (e.g. racemic mixtures). Where additional chiral centres are present in compounds of formula (I), the present invention includes within its scope all possible diastereoisomers, including mixtures thereof. The different isomeric forms may be separated or resolved one from the other by conventional methods, or any given isomer may be obtained by conventional synthetic methods or by stereospecific or asymmetric syntheses.

The compounds of the invention bind to the  $EP_1$  receptor and are therefore considered useful in treating conditions mediated by the action of  $PGE_2$  at  $EP_1$  receptors.

Conditions mediated by the action of PGE<sub>2</sub> at EP<sub>1</sub> receptors include pain; fever; inflammation; immunological diseases; abnormal platelet function diseases; impotence or erectile dysfunction; bone disease; hemodynamic side effects of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs; cardiovascular diseases; neurodegenerative diseases and neurodegeneration; neurodegeneration following trauma; tinnitus; dependence on a dependence-inducing agent; complications of Type I diabetes; and kidney dysfunction.

The compounds of formula (I) are considered to be useful as analgesics. They are therefore considered useful in the treatment or prevention of pain.

The compounds of formula (I) are considered useful as analgesics to treat acute pain, chronic pain, neuropathic pain, inflammatory pain, visceral pain, pain associated with cancer and fibromyalgia, pain associated with migraine, tension headache and cluster headaches, and pain associated with functional bowel disorders, non-cardiac chest pain and non-ulcer dyspepsia.

The compounds of formula (I) are considered useful in the treatment of chronic articular pain (e.g. rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid spondylitis, gouty arthritis and juvenile arthritis) including the property of disease modification and joint structure preservation; musculoskeletal pain; lower back and neck pain; sprains and strains; neuropathic pain; sympathetically maintained pain; myositis; pain associated with cancer and fibromyalgia; pain associated with migraine; pain associated with influenza or other viral infections, such as the common cold; rheumatic fever; pain associated with functional bowel disorders such as non-ulcer dyspepsia, non-cardiac chest pain and irritable bowel syndrome; pain associated with myocardial ischemia; post operative pain; headache; toothache; and dysmenorrhea. The compounds of the invention may also be considered useful in the treatment of visceral pain.

The compounds of the invention are considered to be particularly useful in the treatment of neuropathic pain. Neuropathic pain syndromes can develop following neuronal injury and the resulting pain may persist for months or years, even after the original injury has healed. Neuronal injury may occur in the peripheral nerves, dorsal roots, spinal cord or certain regions in the brain. Neuropathic pain syndromes are traditionally classified according to the disease or event that precipitated them. Neuropathic pain syndromes include: diabetic neuropathy; sciatica; non-specific lower back pain; multiple sclerosis pain; fibromyalgia; HIV-related neuropathy; post-herpetic neuralgia; trigeminal neuralgia; and pain resulting from physical trauma, amputation, cancer, toxins or chronic inflammatory conditions. These conditions are difficult to treat and although several drugs are known to have limited efficacy, complete pain control is rarely achieved. The symptoms of neuropathic pain are heterogeneous and are often described as spontaneous shooting and lancinating pain, or ongoing, burning pain. In addition, there is pain associated with normally non-painful sensations such as "pins and needles" (paraesthesias and



5 dysesthesias), increased sensitivity to touch (hyperesthesia), painful sensation following innocuous stimulation (dynamic, static or thermal allodynia), increased sensitivity to noxious stimuli (thermal, cold, mechanical hyperalgesia), continuing pain sensation after removal of the stimulation (hyperpathia) or an absence of or deficit in selective sensory pathways (hypoalgesia).

The compounds of formula (I) are also considered useful in the treatment of fever.

10 The compounds of formula (I) are also considered useful in the treatment of inflammation, for example in the treatment of skin conditions (e.g. sunburn, burns, eczema, dermatitis, psoriasis); ophthalmic diseases such as glaucoma, retinitis, retinopathies, uveitis and of acute injury to the eye tissue (e.g. conjunctivitis); lung disorders (e.g. asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, allergic rhinitis, respiratory distress syndrome, pigeon fancier's disease, farmer's lung, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, (COPD); gastrointestinal tract  
15 disorders (e.g. aphthous ulcer, Crohn's disease, atopic gastritis, gastritis varioliforme, ulcerative colitis, coeliac disease, regional ileitis, irritable bowel syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease, gastrointestinal reflux disease); organ transplantation; other conditions with an inflammatory component such as vascular disease, migraine, periarteritis nodosa, thyroiditis, aplastic anaemia, Hodgkin's disease, sclerodoma, myaesthesia gravis, multiple  
20 sclerosis, sarcoidosis, nephrotic syndrome, Bechet's syndrome, gingivitis, myocardial ischemia, pyrexia, systemic lupus erythematosus, polymyositis, tendinitis, bursitis, and Sjogren's syndrome.

25 The compounds of formula (I) are also considered useful in the treatment of immunological diseases such as autoimmune diseases, immunological deficiency diseases or organ transplantation. The compounds of formula (I) are also effective in increasing the latency of HIV infection.

30 The compounds of formula (I) are also considered useful in the treatment of diseases relating to abnormal platelet function (e.g. occlusive vascular diseases).

The compounds of formula (I) are also considered useful for the preparation of a drug with diuretic action.

35 The compounds of formula (I) are also considered useful in the treatment of impotence or erectile dysfunction.

40 The compounds of formula (I) are also considered useful in the treatment of bone disease characterised by abnormal bone metabolism or resorption such as osteoporosis (especially postmenopausal osteoporosis), hyper-calcemia, hyperparathyroidism, Paget's bone diseases, osteolysis, hypercalcemia of malignancy with or without bone metastases, rheumatoid arthritis, periodontitis, osteoarthritis, ostealgia, osteopenia, cancer cachexia,

calculus, lithiasis (especially urolithiasis), solid carcinoma, gout and ankylosing spondylitis, tendinitis and bursitis.

5 The compounds of formula (I) are also considered useful for attenuating the hemodynamic side effects of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID's) and cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) inhibitors.

10 The compounds of formula (I) are also considered useful in the treatment of cardiovascular diseases such as hypertension or myocardial ischemia; functional or organic venous insufficiency; varicose therapy; haemorrhoids; and shock states associated with a marked drop in arterial pressure (e.g. septic shock).

15 The compounds of formula (I) are also considered useful in the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases and neurodegeneration such as dementia, particularly degenerative dementia (including senile dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Pick's disease, Huntingdon's chorea, Parkinson's disease and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, ALS, motor neuron disease); vascular dementia (including multi-infarct dementia); as well as dementia associated with intracranial space occupying lesions; trauma; infections and related conditions (including HIV infection); metabolism; toxins; anoxia and vitamin deficiency; and  
20 mild cognitive impairment associated with ageing, particularly Age Associated Memory Impairment.

25 The compounds of formula (I) are also considered useful in the treatment of neuroprotection and in the treatment of neurodegeneration following trauma such as stroke, cardiac arrest, pulmonary bypass, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury or the like.

The compounds of formula (I) are also considered useful in the treatment of tinnitus.

30 The compounds of formula (I) are also considered useful in preventing or reducing dependence on, or preventing or reducing tolerance or reverse tolerance to, a dependence - inducing agent. Examples of dependence inducing agents include opioids (e.g. morphine), CNS depressants (e.g. ethanol), psychostimulants (e.g. cocaine) and nicotine.

35 The compounds of formula (I) are also considered useful in the treatment of complications of Type 1 diabetes (e.g. diabetic microangiopathy, diabetic retinopathy, diabetic nephropathy, macular degeneration, glaucoma), nephrotic syndrome, aplastic anaemia, uveitis, Kawasaki disease and sarcoidosis.

40 The compounds of formula (I) are also considered useful in the treatment of kidney dysfunction (nephritis, particularly mesangial proliferative glomerulonephritis, nephritic syndrome), liver dysfunction (hepatitis, cirrhosis), gastrointestinal dysfunction (diarrhoea) and colon cancer.

The compounds of formula (I) are also useful in the treatment of overactive bladder and urge incontinence.

- 5 It is to be understood that reference to treatment includes both treatment of established symptoms and prophylactic treatment, unless explicitly stated otherwise.

According to a further aspect of the invention, we provide a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof for use in human or veterinary medicine.

10

According to another aspect of the invention, we provide a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof for use in the treatment of a condition which is mediated by the action of PGE<sub>2</sub> at EP<sub>1</sub> receptors.

- 15 According to a further aspect of the invention, we provide a method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from a condition which is mediated by the action of PGE<sub>2</sub> at EP<sub>1</sub> receptors which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

- 20 According to a further aspect of the invention we provide a method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from a pain, or an inflammatory, immunological, bone, neurodegenerative or renal disorder, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

25

According to a yet further aspect of the invention we provide a method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from inflammatory pain, neuropathic pain or visceral pain which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

30

According to another aspect of the invention, we provide the use of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a condition which is mediated by the action of PGE<sub>2</sub> at EP<sub>1</sub> receptors.

35

According to another aspect of the invention we provide the use of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of a condition such as a pain, or an inflammatory, immunological, bone, neurodegenerative or renal disorder.

40

According to another aspect of the invention we provide the use of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof for the manufacture of a

medicament for the treatment or prevention of a condition such as inflammatory pain, neuropathic pain or visceral pain.

5 The compounds of formula (I) and their pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives are conveniently administered in the form of pharmaceutical compositions. Such compositions may conveniently be presented for use in conventional manner in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.

10 Thus, in another aspect of the invention, we provide a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof adapted for use in human or veterinary medicine.

15 The compounds of formula (I) and their pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives may be formulated for administration in any suitable manner. They may be formulated for administration by inhalation or for oral, topical, transdermal or parenteral administration. The pharmaceutical composition may be in a form such that it can effect controlled release of the compounds of formula (I) and their pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives.

20 For oral administration, the pharmaceutical composition may take the form of, for example, tablets (including sub-lingual tablets), capsules, powders, solutions, syrups or suspensions prepared by conventional means with acceptable excipients.

For transdermal administration, the pharmaceutical composition may be given in the form of a transdermal patch, such as a transdermal iontophoretic patch.

25 For parenteral administration, the pharmaceutical composition may be given as an injection or a continuous infusion (e.g. intravenously, intravascularly or subcutaneously). The compositions may take such forms as suspensions, solutions or emulsions in oily or aqueous vehicles and may contain formulatory agents such as suspending, stabilising and/or dispersing agents. For administration by injection these may take the form of a unit  
30 dose presentation or as a multidose presentation preferably with an added preservative. Alternatively for parenteral administration the active ingredient may be in powder form for reconstitution with a suitable vehicle.

35 The compounds of the invention may also be formulated as a depot preparation. Such long-acting formulations may be administered by implantation (for example subcutaneously or intramuscularly) or by intramuscular injection. Thus, for example, the compounds of the invention may be formulated with suitable polymeric or hydrophobic materials (for example as an emulsion in an acceptable oil) or ion exchange resins, or as  
40 sparingly soluble derivatives, for example, as a sparingly soluble salt.



The EP<sub>1</sub> receptor compounds for use in the instant invention may be used in combination with other therapeutic agents, for example COX-2 inhibitors, such as celecoxib, deracoxib, rofecoxib, valdecoxib, parecoxib or COX-189; 5-lipoxygenase inhibitors; NSAID's, such as diclofenac, indomethacin, nabumetone or ibuprofen; leukotriene receptor antagonists; 5 DMARD's such as methotrexate; adenosine A1 receptor agonists; sodium channel blockers, such as lamotrigine; NMDA receptor modulators, such as glycine receptor antagonists; gabapentin and related compounds; tricyclic antidepressants such as amitriptyline; neurone stabilising antiepileptic drugs; mono-aminergic uptake inhibitors such as venlafaxine; opioid analgesics; local anaesthetics; 5HT<sub>1</sub> agonists, such as triptans, 10 for example sumatriptan, naratriptan, zolmitriptan, eletriptan, frovatriptan, almotriptan or rizatriptan; nicotinic acetyl choline (nACh) receptor modulators; glutamate receptor modulators, for example modulators of the NR2B subtype; EP<sub>4</sub> receptor ligands; EP<sub>2</sub> receptor ligands; EP<sub>3</sub> receptor ligands; EP<sub>4</sub> antagonists; EP<sub>2</sub> antagonists and EP<sub>3</sub> antagonists; cannabinoid receptor ligands; bradykinin receptor ligands and vanilloid 15 receptor ligand. When the compounds are used in combination with other therapeutic agents, the compounds may be administered either sequentially or simultaneously by any convenient route.

Additional COX-2 inhibitors are disclosed in US Patent Nos. 5,474,995 US5,633,272; 20 US5,466,823, US6,310,099 and US6,291,523; and in WO 96/25405, WO 97/38986, WO 98/03484, WO 97/14691, WO99/12930, WO00/26216, WO00/52008, WO00/38311, WO01/58881 and WO02/18374.

The invention thus provides, in a further aspect, a combination comprising a compound of 25 formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof together with a further therapeutic agent or agents.

The combinations referred to above may conveniently be presented for use in the form of a pharmaceutical formulation and thus pharmaceutical formulations comprising a 30 combination as defined above together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient comprise a further aspect of the invention. The individual components of such combinations may be administered either sequentially or simultaneously in separate or combined pharmaceutical formulations.

35 When a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof is used in combination with a second therapeutic agent active against the same disease state the dose of each compound may differ from that when the compound is used alone. Appropriate doses will be readily appreciated by those skilled in the art.

40 A proposed daily dosage of compounds of formula (i) or their pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives for the treatment of man is from 0.01 to 30 mg/kg body weight per day and more particularly 0.1 to 10 mg/kg body weight per day, which may be administered as a



single or divided dose, for example one to four times per day. The dose range for adult human beings is generally from 8 to 2000 mg/day, such as from 20 to 1000 mg/day, preferably 35 to 200 mg/day.

- 5 The precise amount of the compounds of formula (I) administered to a host, particularly a human patient, will be the responsibility of the attendant physician. However, the dose employed will depend on a number of factors including the age and sex of the patient, the precise condition being treated and its severity, and the route of administration.
- 10 No unacceptable toxicological effects are expected with compounds of the invention when administered in accordance with the invention.

15 All publications, including but not limited to patents and patent applications, cited in this specification are herein incorporated by reference as if each individual publication were specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference herein as though fully set forth.

The following non-limiting Examples illustrate the preparation of pharmacologically active compounds of the invention.

20

## EXAMPLES

### Abbreviations:

- 25 Bn (benzyl), Bu, Pr, Me, Et (butyl, propyl, methyl ethyl), DMSO (dimethyl sulfoxide), DCM (dichloromethane), DMF (N,N-dimethylformamide), EDTA (ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid), EtOAc (ethyl acetate), EtOH (ethanol), HPLC (High pressure liquid chromatography), LCMS (Liquid chromatography/Mass spectroscopy), MDAP (Mass Directed Purification), MeCN (acetonitrile), MeOH (methanol), NMR (Nuclear Magnetic
- 30 Resonance (spectrum)), Ph (phenyl), pTSA (para-toluene sulphonic acid), SPE (Solid Phase Extraction), TBAF (tetrabutylammonium fluoride), THF (tetrahydrofuran), s, d, t, q, m, br (singlet, doublet, triplet, quartet, multiplet, broad.)

### LCMS

35

- Column: 3.3cm x 4.6mm ID, 3µm ABZ+PLUS
- Flow Rate: 3ml/min
- Injection Volume: 5µl
- Temp: RT
- UV Detection Range: 215 to 330nm

40

Solvents: A: 0.1% Formic Acid + 10mMolar Ammonium Acetate.  
B: 95% Acetonitrile + 0.05% Formic Acid

Gradient: Time	A%	B%
0.00	100	0
0.70	100	0
4.20	0	100
5.30	0	100
5.50	100	0

### Mass Directed Autopreparation

#### 5 Hardware:

Waters 600 gradient pump

Waters 2767 inject/collector

Waters Reagent Manager

Micromass ZMD mass spectrometer

#### 10 Gilson Aspec - waste collector

Gilson 115 post-fraction UV detector

#### Software :

Micromass Masslynx version 4.0

#### Column

15 The column used is typically a Supelco LCABZ++ column whose dimensions are 20mm internal diameter by 100mm in length. The stationary phase particle size is 5 $\mu$ m.

#### Solvents:

A.: Aqueous solvent = Water + 0.1% Formic Acid

B: Organic solvent = MeCN: Water 95:5 +0.05% Formic Acid

20 Make up solvent = MeOH: Water 80:20 +50mMol Ammonium Acetate

Needle rinse solvent = MeOH: Water: DMSO 80:10:10

The method used depends on the analytical retention time of the compound of interest.

15-minute runtime, which comprises a 10-minute gradient followed by a 5-minute column

25 flush and re-equilibration step.

MDP 1.5-2.2 = 0-30%B

MDP 2.0-2.8 = 5-30% B

MDP 2.5-3.0 = 15-55%B

MDP 2.8-4.0 = 30-80% B

30 MDP 3.8-5.5 = 50-90% B

#### Flow rate:

flow rate 20ml/min.

#### 35 Intermediates

2-Benzyloxy-5-chloriodobenzene

A mixture of 5-chloro-2-iodophenol (20g, 78.59 mmol), potassium carbonate (20g, 144.93 mmol) and benzyl bromide (14.78g, 86.45 mmol) in acetone (200ml) was stirred and refluxed for 3 hours. The resulting mixture was cooled, filtered, evaporated to dryness, dissolved in iso-hexane and left to crystallise. There was obtained 25.74g of light brown solid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 5.13 (s, 2H), 6.76 (d, 1H), 7.22-7.48 (m, 6H), 7.77 (d, 1H).

#### 2-Benzyloxy-5-chlorophenylboronic acid

10

A solution of 2M isopropylmagnesium chloride in diethyl ether (46.5ml, 93 mmol) was added over 20 minutes to a solution of 2-benzyloxy-5-chloriodobenzene (16.02g, 46.5 mmol) in dry THF (150ml) at -40°C under nitrogen. After stirring for 1 hour at -40°C the mixture was cooled to -78°C and trimethyl borate (9.67g, 93 mmol) was added over 5 minutes. The resulting mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and 2M hydrochloric acid (200ml) was added and stirred vigorously for 15 minutes. The organic phase was separated, dried (magnesium sulphate), evaporated to dryness and triturated with iso-hexane to give 11.9g of off-white solid. LC/MS: Rt 3.4, [2MH-] 637.3.

#### 2-(2-Bromo-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-4-chloro-1-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]benzene

A mixture of 2-benzyloxy-5-chlorophenylboronic acid (2.983g, 11.36 mmol), 1,2-dibromocyclohexene (10.91g, 45.46 mmol), potassium carbonate (13.8g, 100 mmol) and tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (1.158g, 1 mmol) in 1:1 toluene/ethanol (250ml) was stirred and heated at 90°C under nitrogen for 4 hours. After cooling the mixture was diluted with diethyl ether and water and the organic layer separated, dried (magnesium sulphate) and evaporated to dryness. The residue was chromatographed on silica eluting with ethyl acetate/iso-hexane (1:49) then rechromatographed eluting with dichloromethane/iso-hexane (1:9) and recrystallised from iso-hexane to give 638mg of white crystals.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (d<sub>6</sub> DMSO) δ: 1.55-1.80 (m, 4H), 2.12-2.22 (m, 1H), 2.30-2.41 (m, 1H), 2.51-2.60 (m, 2H), 5.13 (s, 2H), 7.07 (d, 1H), 7.10 (d, 1H), 7.28-7.43 (m, 6H).

#### (2-{5-Chloro-2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]phenyl}-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)boronic acid

35

1.6M butyllithium in hexanes (0.21ml, 0.34 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 2-(2-bromo-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-4-chloro-1-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]benzene (126mg, 0.33mmol) in dry THF (5ml) at -78°C under nitrogen and stirred for 15 minutes. Triisopropyl borate (124mg, 0.66 mmol) was added and the mixture allowed to warm to room temperature and 2M hydrochloric acid (5ml) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred vigorously for 10 minutes and the organic layer separated, dried (magnesium sulphate) evaporated and chromatographed on silica eluting with ethyl acetate/iso-hexane (1:4) to give 44mg of colourless gum. LC/MS: Rt 3.73, [2MH+] 689.4.

Ethyl 6-(2-{5-chloro-2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]phenyl}-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-2-pyridinecarboxylate

5 A mixture of (2-{5-chloro-2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]phenyl}-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)boronic acid (44mg, 0.128 mmol), 6-bromopicolinic acid ethyl ester (30mg, 0.13mmol), potassium carbonate (138mg, 1mmol) and tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (12mg, 0.01 mmol) in 1:1 toluene/ethanol (3ml) was stirred and heated at 90°C under nitrogen for 2 hours. After cooling the mixture was diluted with diethyl ether and water and the organic layer separated, dried (magnesium sulphate) and evaporated to dryness then  
10 chromatographed on silica eluting with ethyl acetate/iso-hexane (1:9) to give 35mg of colourless gum. LC/MS: Rt 4.16, [MH<sup>+</sup>] 448.4, 450.4.

Ethyl 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-hydroxyphenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate

15 Ethyl 6-(2-{5-chloro-2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]phenyl}-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-2-pyridinecarboxylate (310mg, 0.69 mmol) was dissolved in acetic acid (1ml) and 48% hydrogen bromide in acetic acid (5ml) and left at room temperature for 1 hour then poured into diethyl ether/water and basified with potassium carbonate. The organic layer was separated, dried (magnesium sulphate) and chromatographed on silica eluting with ethyl acetate/iso-  
20 hexane (3:17) and the resulting mixture dissolved in ethanol (5ml) and 60% sodium hydride (2mg) added. After leaving overnight at room temperature the solution was diluted with water/diethyl ether, acidified with acetic acid and the organic layer washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution, dried (magnesium sulphate) and evaporated to give 201 mg of colourless gum. LC/MS: Rt 3.56, [MH<sup>+</sup>] 358.4, 360.4.

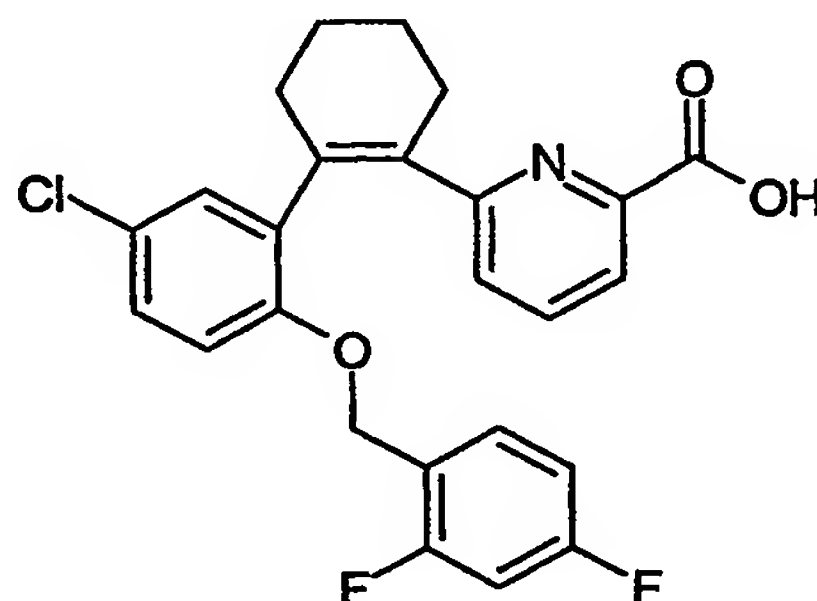
25

Ethyl 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate

30 A mixture of ethyl 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-hydroxyphenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate (100mg, 0.28mmol), 4-fluorobenzyl bromide (63mg, 0.33 mmol) and potassium carbonate (138 mg, 1mmol) in acetone (5ml) was stirred and refluxed for 3 hours. After cooling the mixture was filtered, evaporated and chromatographed on silica eluting with ethyl acetate/iso-hexane (1:9) to give 96mg of white solid. LC/MS: Rt 4.17, [MH<sup>+</sup>] 466.4, 468.3.

35 Ethyl 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate

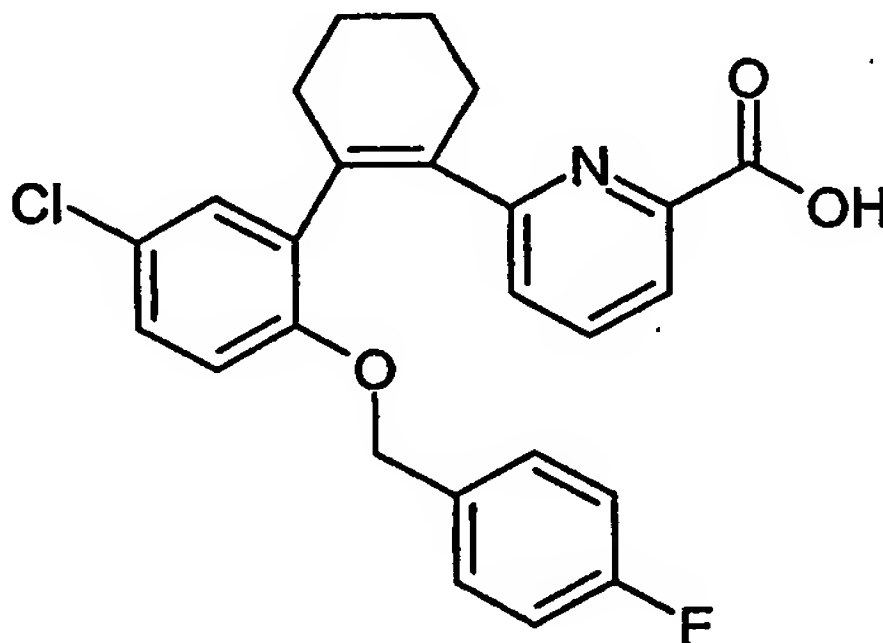
40 Prepared as a white solid in the same manner as for ethyl 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate but using 2,4-difluorobenzyl bromide instead of 4-fluorobenzyl bromide. LC/MS: Rt 4.22, [MH<sup>+</sup>] 484.4, 486.3.

**Example 1****6-[2-(5-Chloro-2-[(2,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid**

- 5 Ethyl 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate (116mg, 0.24 mmol) was dissolved in ethanol (5ml) and 2M sodium hydroxide (1ml) and left at room temperature for 1 hour. The resulting solution was diluted with water/diethyl ether, acidified with acetic acid and the organic layer separated, dried (magnesium sulphate), toluene (10ml) added and evaporated to dryness. The residue was
- 10 triturated with iso-hexane to give 79mg of white solid. LC/MS: Rt 3.91, [MH<sup>+</sup>] 456.3, 458.3.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (d<sub>6</sub> DMSO) δ: 1.60-1.82 (4H, br.m.), 2.05-2.85 (4H, br. m.), 5.11 (2H,s), 6.76 (1H,d), 6.88 (1H, dd), 7.08-7.19 (3H, m), 7.27-7.34 (1H, dt), 7.52-7.59 (2H, m), 7.25 (1H, d), 12.7-13.4 (1H, br. s.).

15

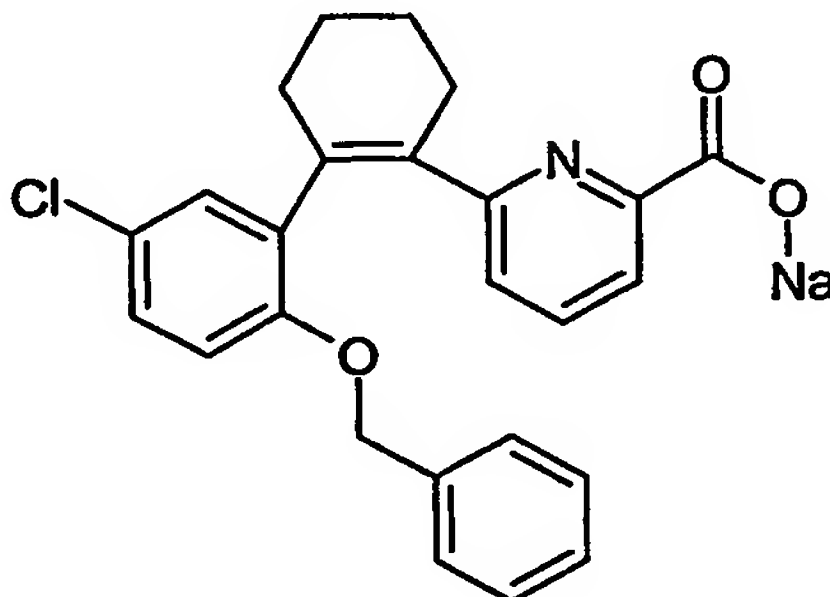
**Example 2****6-[2-(5-Chloro-2-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid**

- 20 Ethyl 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate (96mg, 0.21 mmol) was dissolved in ethanol (5ml) and 2M sodium hydroxide (1ml) and left at room temperature for 1 hour. The resulting solution was diluted with water/diethyl ether, acidified with acetic acid and the organic layer separated, dried (magnesium sulphate), toluene (10ml) added and evaporated to dryness. The residue was
- 25 triturated with iso-hexane to give 72mg of white solid.

LC/MS: Rt 3.80, [MH<sup>+</sup>] 438.3, 440.4

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (d<sub>6</sub> DMSO) δ: 1.69-1.83 (4H, m), 2.1-2.8(4H, br.m), 5.07 (2H,s), 6.79 (1H,d), 6.91 (1H, dd), 7.00 (1H, d), 7.16 (1H, dd), 7.20 (2H, t), 7.43 (2H, dd), 7.55 (1H, t), 7.72 (1H,d), 12.5-13.4 (1H, br.s.).



**Example 3****6-(2-{5-Chloro-2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]phenyl}-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid sodium salt**

- 5 Ethyl 6-(2-{5-chloro-2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]phenyl}-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-2-pyridinecarboxylate (60mg, 0.13 mmol) was dissolved in ethanol (5ml) and 2M sodium hydroxide (1ml) and left at room temperature for 1 hour. The resulting solution was diluted with water/diethyl ether, acidified with acetic acid and the organic layer separated, dried (magnesium sulphate),  
 10 toluene (10ml) added and evaporated to dryness. The residue was dissolved in ethanol (2ml) and 2M sodium hydroxide (0.5ml) then diluted with ethyl acetate/water. The organic layer was dried and evaporated to give 11mg of white solid.  
 LC/MS: Rt 3.83, [MH<sup>+</sup>] 420.4, 422.3  
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (d<sub>6</sub> DMSO) (50°C) δ: 1.66-1.79 (4H, m), 2.19-2.25 (2H, m), 2.46-2.54 (2H, m),  
 15 5.09 (2H, s), 6.75 (1H, d), 6.78 (1H, d), 6.93 (1H, d), 6.99 (1H, dd), 7.26-7.46 (6H, m), 7.75 (1H, d).

**Intermediates****20 4-(Benzyloxy)benzotrifluoride**

- A solution of 4-hydroxybenzotrifluoride (8.55g, 52.78mmol) in acetone (200ml) was treated with benzyl bromide (9.87g, 6.86ml, 58.05mmol) and potassium carbonate (10.94g, 79.16mmol). The mixture was stirred and heated to reflux under nitrogen for 3h. After cooling, diethyl ether (400ml) and water (400ml) were added and the aqueous phase re-  
 25 extracted with diethyl ether (100ml). The combined organic layers were washed with water, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and the solvent removed in vacuo to leave the title compound as a white solid. (12.71g, 95%)  
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 5.11 (2H,s), 7.03 (2H, d, J = 9Hz), 7.34-7.44 (5H, m), 7.55 (2H, d, J = 9Hz).

**30 2-Benzyloxy-5-(trifluoromethyl)iodobenzene**

- A solution of 4-(benzyloxy)benzotrifluoride (12.71g, 50.4mmol) in acetonitrile (300ml) was stirred under nitrogen and 1-(chloromethyl)-4-fluoro-1,4-diazoniabicyclo[2.2.2]octane bis(tetrafluoroborate) (17.75g, 50.4mmol) and iodine (6.4g, 25.2mmol) added. The mixture  
 35 was stirred at room temperature for 88h. The solvent was evaporated and the residue partitioned between ethyl acetate (400ml) and water (400ml). The organic layer was

washed with water, dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ) and evaporated to an orange oil which was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, 5% ethyl acetate: isohexane) to give the title compound as an orange oil (15.07g, 79%)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 5.21 (2H, s), 6.89 (1H, d J = 9Hz), 7.32-7.55 (6H, m), 8.04 (1H, d, J = 2Hz).

1-[2-[(Phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]cyclohexanol

A solution of cyclohexanone (490mg, 5mmol) in anhydrous diethyl ether (5ml) was added with ice bath cooling to a solution of the Grignard prepared from magnesium (122mg, 5mmol) and 2-benzyloxy-5-(trifluoromethyl)iodobenzene (1.895g, 5mmol) in anhydrous diethyl ether (10ml) and the mixture stirred for 30mins before being quenched with saturated ammonium chloride. The organic layer was dried (magnesium sulphate) evaporated and the residue purified by flash chromatography on silica gel eluting with ethyl acetate/iso-hexane (7:93) to give the title compound as a white solid (1.04g).

LC/MS: Rt=3.6min

2-(1-Cyclohexen-1-yl)-1-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene

A mixture of 1-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]cyclohexanol (1g, 2.86mmol) and 4-toluenesulphonic acid (10mg, 0.05mmol) in toluene (15ml) was stirred and refluxed for 1 hour then cooled, washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution, dried (magnesium sulphate) and evaporated to give the title compound as a light brown oil (951mg). LC/MS: Rt=3.7min.

1-[2-[(Phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-7-oxabicyclo[4.1.0]heptane

A solution of 2-(1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-1-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (950mg, 2.86mmol) and 3-chloroperbenzoic acid (641mg, 77%, 2.86mmol) was left at room temperature for 3 hours then washed with saturated sodium bisulphite and saturated sodium bicarbonate solution before being dried (magnesium sulphate) and evaporated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel eluting with ethyl acetate/iso-hexane (5:95) to give the title compound as a colourless oil (890mg). LC/MS: Rt=3.85min.

2-[2-[(Phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]cyclohexanone

A mixture of 1-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-7-oxabicyclo[4.1.0]heptane (21.7g, 62.36mmol) and indium (III) chloride (13.78g, 62.36mmol) in THF (200ml) was stirred and heated at 60°C under nitrogen for 18 hours then diluted with diethyl ether and water. The organic phase was dried (magnesium sulphate) and evaporated and the residue triturated with cold iso-hexane and the white solid filtered off to give the title compound (9.5g). LC/MS: Rt=3.5min.

2-[2-[(Phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate

A solution of 2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]cyclohexanone (2.088g, 6mmol) in dry dimethylformamide (5ml) was added dropwise to a stirred suspension of 60% sodium hydride (460mg, 11.5mmol) in dimethylformamide (12.5ml) with water bath cooling and the resulting mixture stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. N-phenyltrifluoromethanesulphonimide (2.49g, 6.9mmol) was added in one portion and stirred overnight before being carefully diluted with diethyl ether/water and the organic phase was washed with water (x3) dried (magnesium sulphate) and evaporated. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel eluting with ethyl acetate/iso-hexane (1:49) to give the title compound as a colourless oil (1.67g). LC/MS: Rt=3.9min.

4,4,5,5-Tetramethyl-2-{2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-1,3,2-dioxaborolane

A mixture of 2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate (1.65g, 3.43mmol), bis(pinacolato)diboron (960mg, 3.78mmol), potassium carbonate (712mg, 5.16mmol), triphenylphosphine (54mg, 0.21mmol) and bis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(II) chloride (73mg, 0.105mmol) in dioxan (20ml) was stirred and heated at 80°C under nitrogen for 18 hours then cooled and diluted with diethyl ether/water. The organic phase was dried (magnesium sulphate), evaporated. and the residue purified by chromatography on silica gel eluting with ethyl acetate/iso-hexane (1:49) to give the title compound as a colourless oil (1.38g). LC/MS: Rt=4.1min.

{2-[2-[(Phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}boronic acid

4,4,5,5-Tetramethyl-2-{2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-1,3,2-dioxaborolane (4.2g, 9.16mmol) was dissolved in a mixture of ethanol (40ml) and 2M sodium hydroxide (20ml) and left at room temperature for 30 hours. The ethanol was evaporated off and the residue acidified with 2M hydrochloric acid and extracted with diethyl ether which was dried (magnesium sulphate) and evaporated to give the title compound as a colourless oil (3.4g). LC/MS: Rt=3.29min.

Ethyl 6-{2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate

A mixture of {2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}boronic acid (1.504g, 4mmol), ethyl 6-bromopicolinate (1.15g, 5mmol), potassium carbonate (2.76g, 20mmol) and tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (463mg, 0.4mmol) in 1:1 toluene/ethanol (30ml) was stirred and heated at 90°C under nitrogen for 3 hours then cooled, diluted with water/diethyl ether and the organic phase dried (magnesium sulphate) and evaporated. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel eluting with ethyl acetate/iso-hexane (8:92) to give the title compound as a white solid. (1.08g). LC/MS: Rt=4.02min.

Ethyl 5-{2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-3-pyridinecarboxylate

Prepared as an off-white solid by the same method as for ethyl 6-{2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate but using ethyl 5-bromonicotinate instead of ethyl 6-bromopicolinate. LC/MS: Rt=3.63min.

- 5 Ethyl 6-{2-[2-hydroxy-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate  
Ethyl 6-{2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate (1.07g, 2.22mmol) was dissolved in 48% hydrogen bromide in acetic acid (10ml) and left at room temperature for 3 hours then diluted with diethyl ether/water, basified with potassium carbonate and chromatographed on silica gel with ethyl acetate/iso-hexane (1:4). The resulting mixture was dissolved in ethanol (20ml) and 60% sodium hydride (5mg) added. After standing overnight the solution was evaporated, dissolved in diethyl ether/water and acidified with acetic acid. The organic phase was washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate, dried (magnesium sulphate), evaporated and the residue triturated with iso-hexane to give the title compound as a white solid (740mg).  
10  
15 LC/MS: Rt=3.37min.

- Ethyl 5-{2-[2-hydroxy-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-3-pyridinecarboxylate  
Prepared by the same method as for ethyl 6-{2-[2-hydroxy-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate but using ethyl 5-{2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-3-pyridinecarboxylate instead of ethyl 6-{2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate.  
20 LC/MS: Rt=3.57min.

- 4-Chloro-2-(1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-1-(methyloxy)benzene  
25 A solution of cyclohexanone (4.9g, 50mmol) in anhydrous ether (20ml) was added to the Grignard prepared from 4-chloro-2-iodoanisole (13.43g, 50mmol) and magnesium (1.215g, 5mmol) in anhydrous ether (100ml) with ice cooling and stirred for one hour. After addition of saturated ammonium chloride the organic phase was dried (magnesium sulphate) evaporated and triturated with iso-hexane to give a white solid (10.1g) which was  
30 dissolved in toluene (100ml) and toluenesulphonic acid monohydrate (50mg) added. After refluxing for 2 hours the solution was cooled, washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate, dried (magnesium sulphate) and evaporated to give the title compound as a yellow oil (8.7g). LC/MS: Rt=4.15min.

- 35 1-[5-chloro-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]-7-oxabicyclo[4.1.0]heptane  
Prepared by the same method as for 1-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-7-oxabicyclo[4.1.0]heptane but using 4-chloro-2-(1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-1-(methyloxy)benzene instead of 2-(1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-1-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene.  
LC/MS: Rt=3.20min.

- 40 2-[5-Chloro-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]cyclohexanone  
Prepared by the same method as for 2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]cyclohexanone but using 1-[5-chloro-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]-7-



oxabicyclo[4.1.0]heptane instead of 1-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-7-oxabicyclo[4.1.0]heptane. LC/MS: Rt=3.03min.

2-[5-Chloro-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate

- 5 Prepared by the same method as for 2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate but using 2-[5-chloro-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]cyclohexanone instead of 2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]cyclohexanone. LC/MS: Rt=4.08min.

10 2-{2-[5-Chloro-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolane

- Prepared by the same method as for 4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-2-{2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-1,3,2-dioxaborolane but using 2-[5-chloro-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate instead of 2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate. LC/MS: Rt=4.30min.

{2-[5-Chloro-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}boronic acid

- 20 Prepared by the same method as for {2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}boronic acid but using 2-{2-[5-chloro-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolane instead of 4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-2-{2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-1,3,2-dioxaborolane. LC/MS: Rt=3.13min.

25 Ethyl 6-{2-[5-chloro-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate

- Prepared by the same method as for ethyl 6-{2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate but using {2-[5-chloro-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}boronic acid instead of {2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}boronic acid. LC/MS: Rt=4.05min.

30 Ethyl 5-{2-[5-chloro-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-3-pyridinecarboxylate

- Prepared by the same method as for ethyl 6-{2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate but using 2-[5-chloro-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}boronic acid instead of {2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}boronic acid and 5-bromonicotinic acid ethyl ester instead of 6-bromopicolinic acid ethyl ester. LC/MS: Rt=3.70min.

Ethyl 3-{2-[5-chloro-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate

- 40 Prepared by the same method as for ethyl 6-{2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate but using 2-[5-chloro-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}boronic acid instead of {2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}boronic acid and 3-iodonicotinic acid methyl ester instead of 6-bromopicolinic acid ethyl ester. LC/MS: Rt=3.73min.



Ethyl 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-hydroxyphenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate

Ethyl 6-{2-[5-chloro-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate

- 5 left at room temperature for 1 hour then poured onto ice/ether, basified with 2M sodium hydroxide solution and acidified with acetic acid. The organic phase was dried, evaporated, re-evaporated with toluene then dissolved in ethanol (25ml) and sulphuric acid (2ml) and refluxed for 20 hours. The resulting solution was cooled evaporated, dissolved in water/ether and basified with potassium carbonate. The organic phase was dried,  
10 evaporated and the residue was chromatographed on silica gel eluting with ethyl acetate/iso-hexane (3:17) to give the title compound as a white solid (705mg).  
LC/MS: Rt=3.44min.

Ethyl 5-[2-(5-chloro-2-hydroxyphenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylate

- 15 Prepared by the same method as for ethyl 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-hydroxyphenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate but using ethyl 5-{2-[5-chloro-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-3-pyridinecarboxylate instead of ethyl 6-{2-[5-chloro-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate. LC/MS: Rt=3.38min.

Ethyl 3-[2-(5-chloro-2-hydroxyphenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate

- 20 Prepared by the same method as for ethyl 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-hydroxyphenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate but using ethyl 3-{2-[5-chloro-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate instead of ethyl 6-{2-[5-chloro-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate. LC/MS: Rt=3.52min.

Ethyl 4-chloro-2-pyridinecarboxylate 1-oxide

- 25 A solution of ethyl 4-chloro-2-pyridinecarboxylate (15.6g, 84.1mmol) and 77% 3-chloroperbenzoic acid (100mmol) in dichloromethane (150ml) was left at room temperature for 2 days then washed with saturated sodium bisulphite solution and saturated  
30 sodium bicarbonate solution. The aqueous washes were extracted (x3) with dichloromethane and the combined organic extracts dried (magnesium sulphate) evaporated and the residue triturated with iso-hexane to give the title compound as a white solid (13.95g). LC/MS: Rt=1.48min.

Ethyl 4-chloro-6-(2-hydroxy-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-2-pyridinecarboxylate

- 35 Benzoyl chloride (9.71g, 69.11mmol) was added to a solution of ethyl 4-chloro-2-pyridinecarboxylate 1-oxide (13.93g, 69.11mmol) in dichloromethane (175ml) with ice cooling and stirred for 30 minutes. 1-(4-morpholino)cyclohexene (13.84g, 82.87mmol) was added and the mixture refluxed for 1 hour, cooled, washed with saturated sodium  
40 bicarbonate and the organic evaporated. The residue was dissolved in ether/2M hydrochloric acid and yellow solid separated. After diluting with dichloromethane and basifying with potassium carbonate the organic phase was dried (magnesium sulphate),

evaporated and the residue chromatographed on silica gel eluting with ethyl acetate/iso-hexane (1:9) to give the title compound as a yellow solid (7.52g). LC/MS: Rt=3.97min.

Ethyl 6-(2-hydroxy-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-2-pyridinecarboxylate

5 A solution of ethyl 4-chloro-6-(2-hydroxy-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-2-pyridinecarboxylate (7.5g, 26.62mmol) in 2:1 ethanol/tetrahydrofuran (300ml) was hydrogenated with 10% palladium on carbon catalyst (1g) for 24 hours, filtered, evaporated and dissolved in ether/1M sodium carbonate solution. The organic phase was dried (magnesium sulphate) and evaporated to give the title compound as a yellow oil (6.47g). LC/MS: Rt=3.48min.

10

Ethyl 6-(2-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]oxy)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-2-pyridinecarboxylate

Prepared by the same method as for 2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate but using ethyl 6-(2-hydroxy-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-2-pyridinecarboxylate instead of 2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]cyclohexanone. LC/MS: Rt=3.54min.

15

Ethyl 6-{2-[5-bromo-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate

A mixture of Ethyl 6-(2-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]oxy)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-2-pyridinecarboxylate (3.79g, 10mmol), 5-bromo-2-methoxyphenylboronic acid (2.54g, 11mmol), potassium carbonate (5.52g, 40mmol) and tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (1.158g, 1mmol) in dimethoxyethane (60ml) was stirred and heated at 80°C under nitrogen for 2 days, 5-bromo-2-methoxyphenylboronic acid (0.51g, 0.22mmol) and tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (150mg, 0.13mmol) being added after 6 hours and again after 30 hours. The resulting mixture was cooled, diluted with water/diethyl ether and the organic phase dried (magnesium sulphate) and evaporated. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel eluting with ethyl acetate/iso-hexane (1:9) to give the title compound as a yellow gum. (1.26g). LC/MS: Rt=3.91min.

20

25

Ethyl 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-hydroxyphenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate

Prepared by the same method as for ethyl 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-hydroxyphenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate but using ethyl 6-{2-[5-bromo-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate instead of ethyl 6-[2-[5-chloro-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate. LC/MS: Rt=3.71min.

35

**Standard alkylation procedure**

A mixture of the appropriate phenol (1 equivalent), the appropriate benzyl bromide (1.3 equivalents) and potassium carbonate (4 equivalents) in acetone (5ml) was stirred and refluxed for 2 hours. The resulting mixture was filtered, evaporated and purified by chromatography on silica gel.

40

The following compounds were prepared by the standard alkylation procedure:

COMPOUND NAME	LC/MS
Ethyl 6-{2-[2-[[4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 500.4, Rt=3.80min
Ethyl 6-{2-[2-[[2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 500.4, Rt=4.19min
Ethyl 6-{2-[2-[[2,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 518.4, Rt=3.69min
Ethyl 6-[2-(5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-[[2,4,5-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 536.4, Rt=3.90min
Ethyl 6-{2-[2-[[4-chloro-2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 534.4, 536.4 Rt=3.92min
Ethyl 6-[2-(5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-[[2,4,6-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 536.4 Rt=3.57min
Ethyl 6-{2-[2-[[2-chlorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 516.4, 518.4 Rt=3.86min
Ethyl 6-{2-[2-[[3,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 518.4 Rt=3.97min
Ethyl 6-{2-[2-[[2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 534.4, 536.4 Rt=4.18min
Ethyl 6-{2-[2-[[4-chlorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 516.4, 518.4 Rt=4.27min
Ethyl 6-{2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 482.4 Rt=4.02min
Ethyl 5-{2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 482.4 Rt=3.63min

Ethyl 5-{2-[2-[(2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 500.5 Rt=4.40min
Ethyl 5-{2-[2-[(2,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 518.4 Rt=4.43min
Ethyl 5-[2-(5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-[(2,4,6-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 536.4 Rt=4.41min
Ethyl 5-{2-[2-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 500.5 Rt=4.41min
Ethyl 5-[2-(5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-[(2,3,4-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 536.4 Rt=4.48min
Ethyl 5-[2-(5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-[(2,4,5-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 536.4 Rt=4.47min
Ethyl 5-{2-[2-[(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 534.4, 536.4 Rt=4.59min
Ethyl 5-{2-[2-[(4-chloro-2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 534.4, 536.4 Rt=4.61min
Ethyl 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2,4,5-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 502.3, 502.4 Rt=4.41min
Ethyl 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 466.4, 468.4 Rt=4.28min
Ethyl 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2,4,6-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 502.3, 504.4 Rt=4.19min
Ethyl 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 500.3, 503.3 Rt=4.12min
Ethyl 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(3,4,5-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 502.3, 504.4 Rt=3.88min

Ethyl 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(3,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 484.4, 486.4 Rt=3.97min
Ethyl 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(4-chloro-2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 500.3, 503.3 Rt=4.03min
Ethyl 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(4-chlorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 482.3 , 485.3 Rt=3.84min
Ethyl 5-(2-{5-chloro-2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]phenyl}-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 448.4, 450.4 Rt=4.32min
Ethyl 5-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 466.4, 468.4 Rt=4.33min
Ethyl 5-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 466.4, 468.4 Rt=4.31min
Ethyl 5-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 484.4, 486.4 Rt=4.16min
Ethyl 5-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2,4,5-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 502.4, 504.4 Rt=4.35min
Ethyl 5-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2,3,4-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 502.4, 504.4 Rt=4.30min
Ethyl 5-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 500.3, 503.4 Rt=4.19min
Ethyl 3-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 484.4, 486.4 Rt=4.26min
Ethyl 6-(2-{5-bromo-2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]phenyl}-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 494.3, 495.3 Rt=4.26min
Ethyl 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 512.3, 513.3 Rt=4.26min
Ethyl 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 512.3, 513.3 Rt=4.33min



Ethyl 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(2,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 528.3, 531.3 Rt=4.37min
Ethyl 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(3,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 530.3, 531.3 Rt=4.37min
Ethyl 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(2,3,4-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 548.3, 549.3 Rt=4.42min
Ethyl 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(2,4,5-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 548.3, 549.3 Rt=4.44min
Ethyl 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(2,4,6-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 548.3, 549.3 Rt=4.33min
Ethyl 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 546.3, 547.3 Rt=4.56min

### Standard Hydrolysis Procedure

- 5 The appropriate ester was dissolved in ethanol (5ml) and 2M sodium hydroxide (2ml) was added. After 2 hours at room temperature the ethanol was evaporated off and the residue dissolved in ethyl acetate/water. The organic phase was dried (sodium sulphate) and evaporated and the residue triturated with ether/hexane to give the sodium salt as a solid.
- 10 The following compounds were prepared by the standard hydrolysis procedure:

EXAMPLE	COMPOUND NAME	LC/MS
4	Sodium 6-[2-[2-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 472.4 Rt=3.84min
5	Sodium 6-[2-[2-[(2,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 490.4 Rt=3.81min
6	Sodium 6-[2-(5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-[(2,4,5-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 508.4 Rt=3.86min

7	Sodium 6-{2-[2-[(4-chloro-2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 506.3, 508.2 Rt=3.95min
8	Sodium 6-[2-(5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-[(2,4,6-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 508.4 Rt=3.74min
9	Sodium 6-{2-[2-[(2-chlorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 488.4, 490.4 Rt=3.94min
10	Sodium 6-{2-[2-[(3,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 490.4 Rt=3.74min
11	Sodium 6-{2-[2-[(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 506.3, 508.4 Rt=3.94min
12	Sodium 6-{2-[2-[(4-chlorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 488.4, 490.4 Rt=3.89min
13	Sodium 6-{2-[2-[(2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 472.5 Rt=3.92min
14	Sodium 6-{2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 454.4 Rt=3.41min
15	Sodium 5-{2-[2-[(2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 472.4 Rt=4.07min
16	Sodium 5-{2-[2-[(2,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 490.4 Rt=4.10min
17	Sodium 5-[2-(5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-[(2,4,6-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 508.4 Rt=4.08min
18	Sodium 5-{2-[2-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 472.4 Rt=4.09min

19	Sodium 5-[2-(5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-[(2,3,4-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 508.4 Rt=4.17min
20	Sodium 5-[2-(5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-[(2,4,5-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 508.4 Rt=4.16min
21	Sodium 5-{2-[2-[(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 506.3, 508.4 Rt=4.31min
22	Sodium 5-{2-[2-[(4-chloro-2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 506.3, 508.4 Rt=4.31min
23	Sodium 5-{2-[2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 454.4 Rt=3.87min
24	Sodium 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2,4,5-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 474.4, 476.4 Rt=3.93min
25	Sodium 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 438.4, 440.4 Rt=3.62min
26	Sodium 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2,4,6-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 474.4, 476.4 Rt=3.47min
27	Sodium 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 472.3, 475.3 Rt=3.92min
28	Sodium 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(3,4,5-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 474.4, 476.4 Rt=3.69min
29	Sodium 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(3,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 456.4, 458.4 Rt=3.62min
30	Sodium 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(4-chloro-2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 472.3, 475.3 Rt=3.84min
31	Sodium 6-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(4-chlorophenyl)methyl]oxy)phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 454.4, 457.4 Rt=3.80min

32	Sodium 5-(2-{5-chloro-2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]phenyl}-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 420.5, 422.5 Rt=3.89min
33	Sodium 5-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 438.5, 440.5 Rt=3.86min
34	Sodium 5-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 438.2, 440.2 Rt=4.06min
35	Sodium 5-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 456.2, 458.2 Rt=4.09min
36	Sodium 5-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2,4,5-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 474.4, 476.5 Rt=4.18min
37	Sodium 5-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2,3,4-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 474.4, 476.5 Rt=4.19min
38	Sodium 5-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-3-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 454.4, 457.4 Rt=3.80min
39	Sodium 6-(2-{5-bromo-2-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]phenyl}-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 466.3, 467.4 Rt=3.93min
40	Sodium 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(2-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 484.3, 485.3 Rt=3.97min
41	Sodium 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 482.3, 485.3 Rt=3.95min
42	Sodium 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(2,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 502.3, 503.3 Rt=4.01min
43	Sodium 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(3,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 502.3, 503.3 Rt=4.01min
44	Sodium 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(2,3,4-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 520.2, 521.3 Rt=4.07min
45	Sodium 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(2,4,5-trifluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 520.2, 521.3 Rt=4.08min

46	Sodium 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(2,4,6-trifluorophenyl)methoxy]phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 520.3, 521.3 Rt=3.97min
47	Sodium 6-[2-(5-bromo-2-[(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)methoxy]phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 518.2, 520.2 Rt=4.27min
48	Sodium 3-[2-(5-chloro-2-[(2,4-difluorophenyl)methoxy]phenyl)-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-2-pyridinecarboxylate	[M+H] 456.3, 458.3 Rt=4.06min

It is to be understood that the present invention covers all combinations of particular and preferred subgroups described herein above.

5

#### ASSAYS FOR DETERMINING BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITY

The compounds of formula (I) can be tested using the following assays to demonstrate their prostanoid antagonist or agonist activity in vitro and in vivo and their selectivity. The prostaglandin receptors investigated are DP, EP<sub>1</sub>, EP<sub>2</sub>, EP<sub>3</sub>, EP<sub>4</sub>, FP, IP and TP.

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The ability of compounds to antagonise EP<sub>1</sub> & EP<sub>3</sub> receptors may be demonstrated using a functional calcium mobilisation assay. Briefly, the antagonist properties of compounds are assessed by their ability to inhibit the mobilisation of intracellular calcium ([Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>i</sub>) in response to activation of EP<sub>1</sub> or EP<sub>3</sub> receptors by the natural agonist hormone prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub> (PGE<sub>2</sub>). Increasing concentrations of antagonist reduce the amount of calcium that a given concentration of PGE<sub>2</sub> can mobilise. The net effect is to displace the PGE<sub>2</sub> concentration-effect curve to higher concentrations of PGE<sub>2</sub>. The amount of calcium produced is assessed using a calcium-sensitive fluorescent dye such as Fluo-3, AM and a suitable instrument such as a Fluorimetric Imaging Plate Reader (FLIPR). Increasing amounts of [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>i</sub> produced by receptor activation increase the amount of fluorescence produced by the dye and give rise to an increasing signal. The signal may be detected using the FLIPR instrument and the data generated may be analysed with suitable curve-fitting software.

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The human EP<sub>1</sub> or EP<sub>3</sub> calcium mobilisation assay (hereafter referred to as 'the calcium assay') utilises Chinese hamster ovary-K1 (CHO-K1) cells into which a stable vector containing either EP<sub>1</sub> or EP<sub>3</sub> cDNA has previously been transfected. Cells are cultured in suitable flasks containing culture medium such as DMEM:F-12 supplemented with 10% v/v foetal calf serum, 2mM L-glutamine, 0.25mg/ml geneticin and 10µg/ml puromycin.

30

For assay, cells are harvested using a proprietary reagent that dislodges cells such as Versene. Cells are re-suspended in a suitable quantity of fresh culture media for introduction into a 384-well plate. Following incubation for 24 hours at 37°C the culture



media is replaced with a medium containing fluo-3 and the detergent pluronic acid, and a further incubation takes place. Concentrations of compounds are then added to the plate in order to construct concentration-effect curves. This may be performed on the FLIPR in order to assess the agonist properties of the compounds. Concentrations of PGE<sub>2</sub> are then added to the plate in order to assess the antagonist properties of the compounds.

The data so generated may be analysed by means of a computerised curve-fitting routine. The concentration of compound that elicits a half-maximal inhibition of the calcium mobilisation induced by PGE<sub>2</sub> (pIC<sub>50</sub>) may then be estimated.

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#### Binding Assay for the Human Prostanoid EP<sub>1</sub> Receptor

Competition assay using [<sup>3</sup>H]-PGE<sub>2</sub>.

15 Compound potencies are determined using a radioligand binding assay. In this assay compound potencies are determined from their ability to compete with tritiated prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub> ([<sup>3</sup>H]-PGE<sub>2</sub>) for binding to the human EP<sub>1</sub> receptor.

20 This assay utilises Chinese hamster ovary-K1 (CHO-K1) cells into which a stable vector containing the EP<sub>1</sub> cDNA has previously been transfected. Cells are cultured in suitable flasks containing culture medium such as DMEM:F-12 supplemented with 10% v/v foetal calf serum, 2mM L-glutamine, 0.25mg/ml geneticin, 10µg/ml puromycin and 10µM indomethacin.

25 Cells are detached from the culture flasks by incubation in calcium and magnesium free phosphate buffered saline containing 1 mM disodium ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (Na<sub>2</sub>EDTA) and 10µM indomethacin for 5 min. The cells are isolated by centrifugation at 250xg for 5mins and suspended in an ice cold buffer such as 50 mM Tris, 1mM Na<sub>2</sub>EDTA, 140mM NaCl, 10µM indomethacin (pH 7.4). The cells are homogenised using a Polytron  
30 tissue disrupter (2x10s burst at full setting), centrifuged at 48,000xg for 20mins and the pellet containing the membrane fraction is washed three times by suspension and centrifugation at 48,000xg for 20mins. The final membrane pellet is suspended in an assay buffer such as 10mM 2-[N-morpholino]ethanesulphonic acid, 1mM Na<sub>2</sub>EDTA, 10mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> (pH 6). Aliquots are frozen at -80°C until required.

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For the binding assay the cell membranes, competing compounds and [<sup>3</sup>H]-PGE<sub>2</sub> (3nM final assay concentration) are incubated in a final volume of 100µl for 30 min at 30°C. All reagents are prepared in assay buffer. Reactions are terminated by rapid vacuum filtration over GF/B filters using a Brandell cell harvester. The filters are washed with ice cold assay  
40 buffer, dried and the radioactivity retained on the filters is measured by liquid scintillation counting in Packard TopCount scintillation counter.

The data are analysed using non linear curve fitting techniques (GraphPad Prism 3) to determine the concentration of compound producing 50% inhibition of specific binding ( $IC_{50}$ ).

- 5 By application of these techniques, compounds of the examples had an antagonist  $pIC_{50}$  value of between 6.5 and 9.5 at  $EP_1$  receptors and  $pIC_{50}$  value of  $< 6.0$  at  $EP_3$  receptors.

No toxicological effects are indicated/expected when a compound (of the invention) is administered in the above mentioned dosage range.

10

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